

Consultation Response Form

Northern Ireland Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan Consultation

April 2021

Forename

Surname

Email Address (The Department will issue its response to the consultation via the address provided.)

Which category best describes you?

Individual:

Current higher education student:

Prospective higher education student:

Former higher education student:

Parent:

Higher education employee:

Employer:

Are you answering on behalf of yourself or an organisation?

Myself

Organisation (please specify in the box below):

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Statement 1:

The Northern Ireland economy needs a labour market with a postgraduate qualified workforce.

- Strongly Disagree**
- Disagree**
- Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- Agree**
- Strongly Agree**

Statement 2:

Postgraduate students should have access to a government backed loan which covers the full cost of their tuition fees.

- Strongly Disagree**
- Disagree**
- Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- Agree**
- Strongly Agree**

Statement 3:

Postgraduate students from Northern Ireland studying in the UK or in the Republic of Ireland should be eligible for Postgraduate tuition fee loans.

- Strongly Disagree**
- Disagree**
- Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- Agree**
- Strongly Agree**

Statement 4:

The government should be able to adjust the eligibility of additional support to match economic need in specific subject areas.

- Strongly Disagree**
- Disagree**
- Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- Agree**
- Strongly Agree**

Statement 5:

Access to a maintenance/support loan is as important as having access to the postgraduate tuition fee loan.

- Strongly Disagree**
- Disagree**
- Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- Agree**
- Strongly Agree**

Statement 6:

It is important that the loan products available track with inflation:

- Strongly Disagree**
- Disagree**
- Neither Agree nor Disagree**
- Agree**
- Strongly Agree**

Question 1:

Which do you feel offers the best solution for funding NI postgraduate tuition fee loans (PGTFL)?

Option 1 Increase the maximum rate of the PGTFL and review every 3 years

Option 2 Increase the maximum rate of the PGTFL and automatically apply an annual increase in line with inflation

Unsure

Please explain your answer:

Question 2:

Do you feel that the current NI postgraduate tuition fee loan is sufficient?

YES, IT IS SUFFICIENT AT £5,500

NO, IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT AT £5,500

Unsure

Please explain your answer:

Question 3:

Do you think that the list of eligible/approved places of study for the postgraduate tuition fee loan (PGTFL) should be extended to include approved institutions in the Republic of Ireland (RoI), as is the case for the undergraduate tuition fee loan – in accordance with Option 4?

Yes, PGTFL should be available for study at listed providers in RoI

No, PGTFL should NOT be available for study at listed providers in RoI

Unsure

Please explain your answer:

Question 4:

In line with Option 5 do you think that, where economically relevant courses cost more than the level of tuition fee loan available, the Department should seek to support study in those courses via a grant to cover the difference in the cost?

Yes,

No,

Unsure

Please explain your answer:

Question 5:

Comparing Options 6 and 7, in respect of providing some form of maintenance loan to postgraduate students, would you be in favour of a standalone maintenance loan (Option 6) or a combined contribution to costs loan (Option 7)?

Option 6 - a Postgraduate Maintenance Loan

Option 7 - a Contribution to Costs Loan

Unsure

Please explain your answer:

Question 6:

What do you feel are the key factors which may impede postgraduate study?
(Select all you feel apply)

Level of PGTFLL not covering tuition costs

Lack of a PG maintenance loan

Inability to afford a course in rUK/RoI

Course availability in NI

Unsure

Other (Please specify below)

If you selected "Other" please specify in the box below:

Question 7:

Do you believe it to be advantageous that the tuition fee loan is paid directly to the university and not to the student?

Yes

No

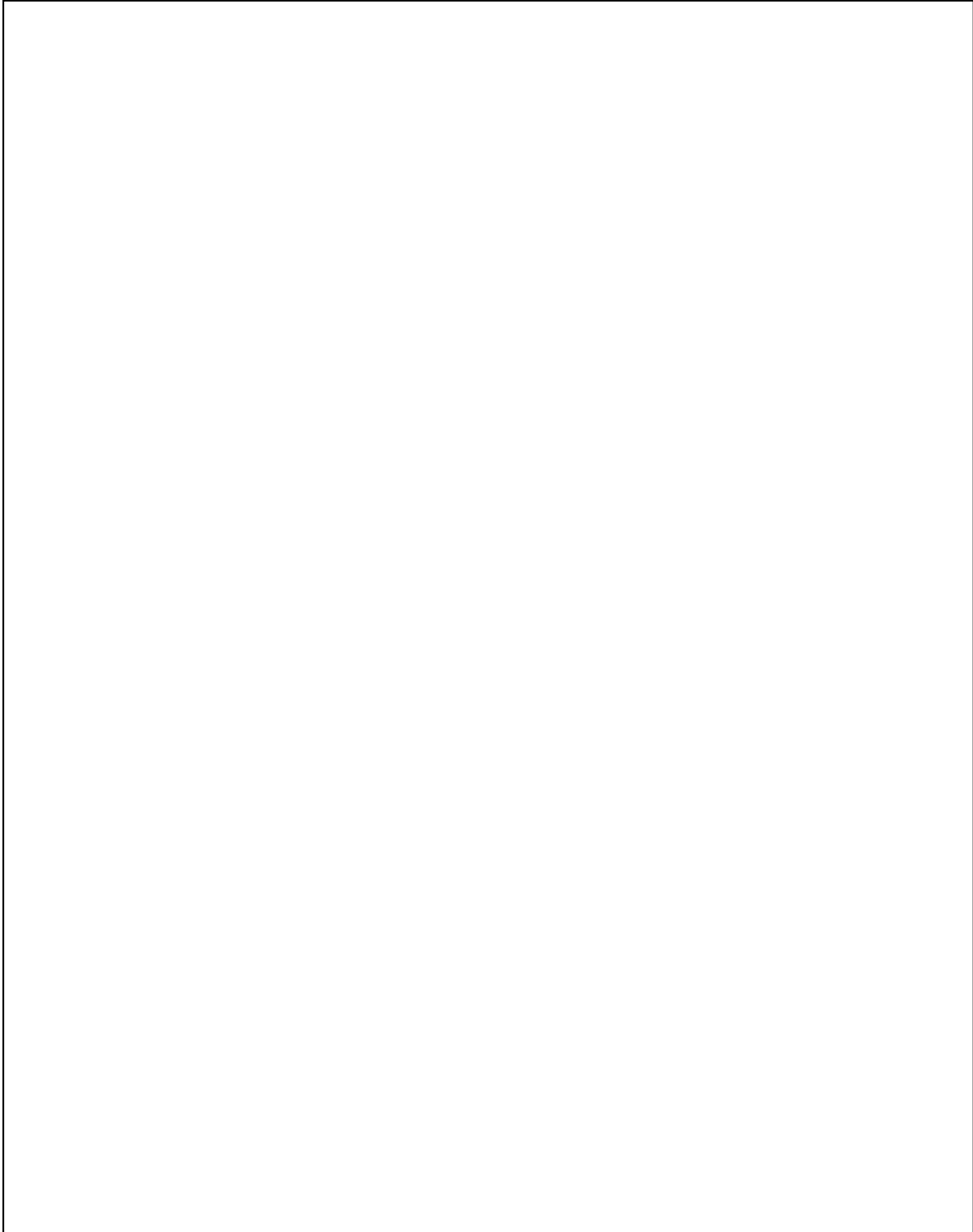
Unsure

Please explain your answer:

Question 8:

Do you have any additional comments on any of the policy options considered within this consultation?

Please use this space to include any additional comments you may have.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide additional comments on the policy options.

Next Steps

Please send your completed response to:

FAO PGTFLL Consultation Response
HE Policy Branch
Department for the Economy
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast
BT4 2JP