

2.7 Deputy A.E. Jeune of St. Brelade of the Minister for Education, Sport and Culture regarding the number of Jersey students pursuing a nursing diploma or degree:

Could the Minister please advise the Assembly of the number of Jersey students known to have attended university to study for a nursing diploma or degree giving the number by year of entry over the past 5 years, the number who plan to commence such study this coming academic year and the number who have returned to Jersey following qualification in the past 5 years?

Deputy J.G. Reed of St. Ouen (The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture):

Firstly, I would like to thank the Deputy for her kindness and understanding with regard to this question. This is the busiest time of the year for officers processing student grant applications and the first priority has to be to ensure that all students are dealt with appropriately and in a timely fashion. In light of this, the Deputy has kindly agreed to defer the first and third parts of her question until such time as the officers can research the answers without being diverted from their prime task. With regard to the second part of her question, however, I can confirm that we currently have one midwifery and 2 nursing applicants commencing studies in this coming academic year. There could also be others that, as yet, have not completed the application process. In addition, there are 4 students starting on the local student route supported by the Open University. I will aim to provide, as I said before, a more complete analysis in October once all the information has been collated. Thank you.

2.7.1 Deputy A.E. Jeune:

I do understand the situation that his officers are in in relation to the answering of this question, but could I then further ask that when they are answering the question that they identify whether they believe they are doing enough to encourage students to undertake this particular training?

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

I could probably answer that question quite quickly and say that I personally feel, as do the Skills Executive, that a better co-ordinated approach to providing training across the Island, including nursing, needs to be developed and great efforts are already being placed in this particular area. Thank you.