

**From the Office of the Minister
DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA**



Department for the

Economy

An Roinn

Geilleagair

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Claire, a chara

**AQW 48873/22-27 – FUNDING SUPPORTING STUDENTS ORDINARILY
RESIDENT IN THE SOUTH OF IRELAND STUDYING AT HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS HERE**

I am writing further to my response to AQW 48873/22-27, issued on 24 July 2026, in which I undertook to place outstanding data on student support finance in the Assembly Library when available.

The additional data is included in the attached Annex. I have arranged for this to be placed in the Assembly Library.

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DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA

Minister for the Economy

AQW 48873/22-27 - supplementary material**Ms Claire Sugden MLA has asked:**

To ask the Minister for the Economy, to detail (i) any funding allocated to support students, ordinarily resident in the Republic of Ireland, studying at Northern Ireland higher education institutions, in each of the last five years; (ii) the number of such students that were supported in each year; (iii) the proportion of that funding that was provided through the teaching grant, or other departmental funding streams; and (iv) whether the Department has undertaken any assessment of the economic return to Northern Ireland from that expenditure.

Supplementary material

The table below details student support funding from Student Finance NI provided to students domiciled in the south of Ireland studying at higher education institutions here, in each of the last five years. Figures have been provided by the Student Loans Company.

Academic year	Students supported	Full-time tuition fee loan amount	Part-time fee loan amount
2021/22	177	£748,057.47	£5,165.00
2022/23	415	£1,828,900.39	£5,265.20
2023/24	645	£2,802,871.93	£7,327.69
2024/25	895	£3,869,076.79	£3,089.70
2025/26	1,173	£5,065,949.24	£4,166.20
Total	3,305	£14,314,855.82	£25,013.79