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Our ref
Your ref

23 May 1984

Dear Dr Taylor

NURSING EDUCATION : STUDENT NUMBERS

Thank you for your letter of 2 March concerning student numbers for Nursing Studies. The contents of your letter, together with the comments which you made in your letter of 2 March to the Secretary of Chelsea College, were reported to the Special Advisory Committee in Nursing Studies at a meeting on 11 May, at which it was agreed that I should write to you again on this matter.

From your letter it would seem that Chelsea College can only increase the intake of Nursing Students by agreement within the King's/Chelsea/Queen Elizabeth consortium for a corresponding reduction of student numbers in other subjects. Such a view would appear to overlook the proposal that, in the first instance, the Nursing numbers at KCO are to increase in compensation for the loss of Nursing Students at Bedford.

As you know, the Court and Senate accepted the recommendation of the Working Party that there should be an increase in the annual intake of Nursing students at Chelsea College to compensate for the loss of the Bedford College nursing course. It had been anticipated, therefore, that there would be some transfer of resources between the two Colleges. Chelsea College have been unable to find additional resources for Nursing students from within the College and, in the absence of the expected additional compensatory resources for this purpose, Chelsea College were unable to increase the Nursing intake in 1983 and are unlikely to be able to do so in 1984 or, at latest, 1985. This is leading to a considerable reduction in the overall number of Nursing students in the University of London (and hence to the number of graduate nurses we are producing) notwithstanding the UGC recommendation to the University of July 1981 that intakes to Nursing Studies should "be maintained at existing levels".

I would stress that we are not, for the moment, concerned with the Working Party's second and long term recommendation for a further increase in Nursing numbers, but only with the problem of how to maintain numbers at the total planned some years ago for Bedford and Chelsea together. It would seem to us that misunderstandings of the position may have occurred. I enclose some notes on the position concerning Nursing Student numbers as understood by the SAC. The SAC have suggested that the difficulties might be resolved through a meeting of myself and representatives of Chelsea and Bedford Colleges with yourself and officials from the Court Department.

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I shall be most grateful for your comments. If an early meeting can be arranged, hopefully the matter might be resolved in time for an increased intake in October 1984 (assuming applicants are still available). The present reduction in the number of Nursing Students in London University is a matter of considerable concern to the representatives of the professional and statutory Nursing bodies on the SAC.

Yours sincerely

Professor T E Oppé
Chairman
SAC in Nursing Studies

Dr W Taylor
Principal
University of London

NURSING STUDENTS : NUMBERS

Notes on the position as understood by the SAC in Nursing Studies

1. Chelsea College introduced, in October 1977, a 4-year course leading to a BSc degree in the Faculty of Science with an annual intake of 25-30 students. Their Nursing Student numbers were therefore projected to be:

<u>77-78</u>	<u>78-79</u>	<u>79-80</u>	<u>80-81</u>	<u>81-82</u>	<u>82-83 onwards</u>
25-30	50-60	75-90	110-120	100-120	100-120

2. The UGC confirmed, in January 1980, that they would "not object to the introduction of a 4-year degree course in Nursing Studies at Bedford College to replace its existing arrangements for this subject..." The Court accordingly reported to the Senate in February 1980 that funds had been granted to Bedford College in support of a "special academic initiative" for a 4-year degree course in Social Policy and Nursing.

Bedford College initially planned an intake of 12 Nursing Students a year, the first being admitted in October 1981. In fact, only 8 students were admitted in 1981 so that numbers have been, or might be expected as follows:

<u>77-81</u>	<u>81-82</u>	<u>82-83</u>	<u>83-84</u>	<u>84-85</u>	<u>85-</u>
0	8	20	32	44-48	48-

3. The UGC letter of 1 July 1981 to the University of London included under Science the statement "In subjects Allied to Medicine the Committee recommend that intakes to Nursing Studies.....should be maintained at existing levels".

As the UGC and the Court had approved the courses at Bedford and Chelsea Colleges (notwithstanding that the Bedford course was only about to commence) maintenance of a total annual intake of at least 37 (25 + 12) in the University of London would seem indicated.

4. Using the figures in 1 and 2 above this would mean total Nursing Student numbers as follows:

	<u>78-79</u>	<u>81-82</u>	<u>82-83</u>	<u>83-84</u>	<u>84-85</u>	<u>85-86</u>
Chelsea	50-60	100-120	100-120	100-120	100-120	100-120
Bedford	0	8	20	32	44	48
Total	50-60	108-128	120-140	132-152	144-164	148-168

By 1985 the roll-on effect on Nursing Student numbers of the 4-year courses would be completed.

5. (i) The Chelsea Nursing Students are registered in the Faculty of Science and are considered within the Science allocation for numbers in the UGC grouping Studies Allied to Medicine.

(ii) The Bedford Nursing Students are registered for a BSc in the Faculty of Economics but they are allocated, for UGC purposes, to Arts with the Social Studies coding. This was recognised in the Court models for student numbers of November 1981 which indicated a group of 12 'protected' Arts students at Bedford.

6. In fact, there was no intake of Nursing Students at Bedford College in 1983 pending a decision on the future of the course there. In February 1983 the Working Party on Nursing Studies recommended:

(i) that no further students should be accepted into the Bedford College course

(ii) that there should be an increase in the annual intake to the BSc course in Nursing Studies offered by Chelsea College to compensate for the loss of the Bedford course.

These recommendations were accepted by the Court and Senate. It was therefore anticipated that resources would be available for Chelsea College to accept an intake of at least 37-42 students in October 1983 and thereafter, thereby also maintaining the intake of Nursing Students in the University of London "at existing levels" as recommended by the UGC. As the BSc course extends over 4 years this would mean total Nursing Student numbers in Chelsea College of at least 148.

7. The Working Party on Nursing Studies made the additional recommendation, also accepted by the Court and Senate, that, in the long term, the University should consider increasing the intake of Nursing Students to at least 50 per annum.

8. Implementation of this further proposal has, however, been deferred until it is ensured that Chelsea College is able, as a first stage, to increase its intake to at least 37 per annum to take into account closure of the Bedford course. This it has not been able to do; resources were only available for an intake of 25 Nursing Students in 1983 and presently are only available for 25 students to be admitted in 1984.

May, 1984.