**DoH nursing research post**

A PROFESSOR of nursing is to be appointed to lead nursing research policy at the Department of Health for the first time.

Announcing the post earlier this week, health secretary Frank Dobson said the high profile appointment would help to shape the NHS research and development agenda.

**UKCC election results**

**ENGLAND**
- Nurses: George Casteldine, Julie Allcroft, Jacqui Mahoney, Sally Nethercott, Jessica Cudmore, Karen Hughes and Bobby Jones
- Midwives: Heather Dobbin and Paul Lewis
- Health visitors: Alison Norman

**SCOTLAND**
- Nurses: Christine McGilvray, Elizabeth Rush, Jennifer Cruikshank, Ian Bryan, Miles Moffat, Margaret Collingwood, Lynn Robertson
- Midwives: Heather Laing and Johanna Matthew
- Health visitors: Isabel Caskie

**WALES**
- Nurses: Jenni Frost, Bryn Davis, Kathleen Evans, Jean Morris, June Smail, Andrew Charnock and Karen Davies
- Midwives: Sheila Drayton and Rose Marx
- Health visitors: Anne Kelly

**NORTHERN IRELAND**
- Nurses: Peter O'Reilly, Mary Hanratty, Valerie Morrison, Linda Coey, Jean Black, Catherine McEvoy and Peter Clarke
- Midwives: Rosaleen Malone and Eunice Foster
- Health visitors: Maureen Magowan

---

**GOVERNMENT BOWS TO PRESSURE AND MAKES FUNDING OF NURSING STUDENTS A SPECIAL CASE**

**Nursing students to get tuition fees paid**

*By Jack Shamash*

NURSING unions have praised government moves, announced last week, which mean more money for nursing students.

The government had been planning to make all university students – including nursing students – pay £1,000 for tuition fees from next year. However, as a result of intense lobbying, they have now agreed to make nursing a special case.

Nurses doing degree courses will get their fees paid by the Higher Education Funding Council. They will also have access to special bursaries.

The government has not yet decided how large these bursaries should be or how they will be distributed.

The changes will also apply to midwifery students. However, they will not affect nurses doing diplomas, who will continue to receive funding through the NHS.

Health minister Frank Dobson said: ‘We want to attract high quality students from all walks of life into the healthcare professions.’

RCN general secretary Christine Hancock said: ‘The RCN is delighted that the government has recognised that a special case has to be made for nursing students. The announcement will encourage young people to consider nursing as a career.’

Louise Silverton, for the Royal College of Midwives, said: ‘These changes will ensure that access to midwifery education is by merit, regardless of income.’

Karen Jennings, professional officer at Unison, sounded a note of caution. ‘It’s obviously very good that nursing students are getting their tuition fees paid, but we would like to have discussions on the level of bursary.’

RCN’s assistant director of education, Sally Thomson, said the RCN’s proposed model for nurse education insists that ‘the caring skills that constitute nursing are stressed within the curriculum’.

**UKCC concerned over low turnout in election**

THE UKCC is to commission research into why so few nurses, midwives and health visitors voted in its latest election.

The election turnout, the results of which were announced this week, was 13 per cent of those on the register – even lower than the turnout of 16.5 per cent five years ago.

A spokesperson for the UKCC admitted it had hoped for a better response, but said: ‘We have had a great deal of feedback during the election. People have told us that they want to know more about which particular branch of nursing candidates are working in.

‘We will conduct a survey of a sample of people on the register early next year to try to find out why they didn’t vote and to try to rectify that.’

Unison and the RCN both ran slates for the election. Eleven Unison and seven RCN nominees were successful.