



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 18/7/08

CHESSE, Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland, has heavily criticised the government for the Local Income Tax proposals which will result in unfair taxation of students. They have called upon the Government to give full-time students a full exemption from the policies.

The potential legislation directly conflicts with the Government's policies to widen access to Higher Education for students from the poorest backgrounds.

It is estimated that 55,000 of Scotland's poorest students will be affected by the proposed changes. CHESSE commented that the changes would force poorer students to work longer hours to recoup the money lost through tax, thus giving them significantly less time to prepare for their studies. There is also concern that the income needed to continue to study will increase significantly due to students being charged up to £700 for water: a cost they never previously had to absorb.

Currently, students on average earn £8,000 per annum: an amount significantly over the threshold for taxation. As such, CHESSE believes that the government's comment that 'the vast majority of full-time Scottish students will pay absolutely nothing' is incorrect.

Gavin Lee, Convenor of CHESSE, commented: "CHESSE are extremely disappointed that the Government are disregarding their vote grabbing pledge to 'dump the debt' by increasing the financial pressure students are faced with. A fairer tax? I think not."

The Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland (CHESSE) exists to promote and enhance the position of students in higher education in Scotland and act as their voice on national issues. By listening to CHESSE as a national student body you can be assured that you are listening to the voice of 100,000 higher education students in Scottish institutions. CHESSE reflects the commitment to voicing concerns on issues that really matter to students.

CHESSE represents the students of the following institutions at a national level: the University of Dundee, the University of Glasgow, the Glasgow School of Art, Open University in Scotland, the University of Strathclyde, the University of St. Andrews.

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