



**Baroness Barran**

Minister for the School System and Student Finance  
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The Rt Hon. the Lord Wigley  
House of Lords,  
Parliament Square,  
London,  
SW1A 0PW

7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Dafydd,

Thank you for speaking during the House of Lords Oral Parliamentary Questions on Higher Education Investment and Opportunity in Nuclear Fusion Technology on Thursday 7 December. I am writing to you on the matter of your question about demand for graduates, and a proposed training reactor at Bangor University. You asked if I was aware of the rapid growth in demand for nuclear graduates, the shortfall in current numbers, and the partnership between Bangor University and the National Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) for the establishment of a training reactor. I have spoken with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, where the policy responsibility lies.

Under a memorandum of understanding established in July 2022, the NNL and Bangor University entered a strategic collaboration to work together to advance education and research in the field of nuclear energy, including skills and training for the nuclear industry. As part of this collaboration, Bangor University and NNL are in the initial stages of exploring the potential to host a training reactor at Bangor University to support the development of nuclear skills in the UK.

Currently, UK students access international facilities in Europe and the United States of America. There, they can access training reactors for operational training and conducting experiments. The projected increase in demand for nuclear skills and subject matter experts will require increased capacity and capability in UK universities to support and enable this.

Thank you again for raising this matter with me. I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diana Barran".

**BARONESS BARRAN**

**MINISTER FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND STUDENT FINANCE**