

Date: 21 December 2020

Your Ref:

Our ref: 201221/Williamson G/PR/FC

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, MP
Secretary of State
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
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NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

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General Secretary
Dr Patrick Roach

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Dear Gavin,

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Teachers

Further to the introduction of new national Coronavirus restrictions on 20 December 2020.

We note that the UK Government has published updated Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19

The latest guidance confirms that:

'Everyone is currently advised to work from home where possible. As a general principle, working from home reduces the chance of you being exposed to the virus.'

'If you need support to work at home or in the workplace you can apply for [Access to Work](#). Access to Work will provide support for the disability-related extra costs of working that are beyond standard reasonable adjustments an employer must provide.'

'Clinically extremely vulnerable people should not go to the workplace if they live or work in areas where shielding advice is active. Currently this applies to Tier 4 areas only. Otherwise, if you cannot work from home, you can still go to work in Tiers 1, 2 and 3.'

In the same guidance, it is noted that 'shielding advice is currently in place in Tier 4, so all children still deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school. Children and young people whose parents or carers are clinically extremely vulnerable can continue to go to school.'

Whilst we note that the Government intends to review the position on national restrictions again on 30 December, the NASUWT nevertheless requests urgent confirmation from you regarding the application of the general public health advice in relation to staff working in schools and colleges.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Roach', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary