

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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Our ref: 201130/Williamson G-2/PR/TF

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  
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Dear Gavin

### **Covid-19 Workforce Fund**

I have written to you previously on the urgent need for additional funding to assist schools in meeting the additional costs of ensuring COVID-safe arrangements in schools and colleges.

The NASUWT notes that on 27 November 2020 you announced additional funding for Coronavirus workforce costs, but with significant limitations.

We note with concern that funding for the additional coronavirus related costs of full re-opening from September 2020 onwards will not be provided and that additional funding is restricted to costs incurred in November and December 2020 only.

The NASUWT is concerned that schools continue to be denied the additional funding they require to operate safely during the pandemic. The costs of COVID-19 controls in schools, including additional cleaning costs and the costs of additional staff cover for coronavirus-related absence and for the provision of remote education, have increased significantly. In order for schools to be able to continue to open safely, we maintain that funding for schools must increase beyond the measures you have announced.

In addition, we note that you have not announced any additional funding to assist schools to meet their statutory obligations for the provision of remote education.

The NASUWT is also concerned to note the arbitrary criteria that appear to have been adopted with regard to the eligibility thresholds for claiming the funding you have announced. We would ask for clarification from you as to the rationale for the criteria you have announced.

I must once again ask you to further review this issue which is of critical importance to keeping schools open safely throughout the pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Dr Patrick Roach  
**General Secretary**