



Hillscourt Education Centre
Rose Hill
Rednal
Birmingham
B45 8RS

General Secretary
Dr Patrick Roach

Telephone: 0121 453 6150 Facsimile: 0121 457 6208

E-mail: nasuwt@mail.nasuwt.org.uk Website: www.nasuwt.org.uk

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP
Secretary of State
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

15 January 2021

Dear Gavin,

Once again, the NASUWT and the REC find our respective organisations writing to you to express our shared concerns over the detrimental financial situation supply teachers find themselves in as a result of the new lockdown measures implemented by the Government, including the closure of schools, in order to address the spread of COVID-19. The REC and the NASUWT have already written to you separately on the 6th January on this crucial issue, but as this matter is so important, we have come together to write this joint letter to you in regards to this pressing issue.

We know that you recognise and appreciate the vital service supply teachers provide to schools and colleges and hope you recognise the need to support them financially at this uncertain time, whilst schools are shut and there is very little work available.

Whilst appreciating the intervention of the Government in extending the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the much needed financial support this provided which permitted agencies to furlough supply teachers, both the NASUWT and the REC are concerned that the increased employer contributions (e.g. National



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Insurance and pension contributions) will result in vast swathes of supply teachers not being placed on furloughed, coupled with the associated loss of earnings.

As supply teachers, and the agencies supplying them, have been an integral part of maintaining educational provision throughout the pandemic, it is only right and proper that the Government looks to support them at this time, so that agencies and the supply teachers working for them receive the financial clarity needed.

Despite our two organisations sometimes disagreeing on issues, we have chosen to collaborate, putting our collective weight behind this extremely urgent issue that simply must be clarified as a priority. It is absolutely critical that supply teachers, as agency workers, receive proper financial support through the CJRS.

We believe that without appropriate financial support, many dedicated and committed supply teachers will be lost to the sector forever. This would not be good for the supply teachers themselves, but also for the educational provision of children and young people. This is particularly important when sick levels among teachers and support staff are likely to be at an all-time high as a result of the pandemic, and appropriate cover will be essential to get schools and colleges fully open once again. We look forward to your prompt response and would be happy to join a call to outline the issue in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary
NASUWT

Neil Carberry
Chief Executive
REC