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NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

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

Dear Gavin

Treasury announcement regarding the Job Support Scheme and Supply Teachers

The NASUWT is writing to you following the announcement by the Treasury regarding its Winter Economy Plan and the introduction of the Job Support Scheme from 1 November aimed at protecting “viable” jobs, and access to the scheme for hard working and dedicated supply teachers.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic there are now large numbers of supply teachers unable to work, or who are now only able to obtain substantially reduced employment opportunities. This situation has been compounded by the implementation of the DfE guidance.

The NASUWT appreciates the decisiveness of the action taken by the Government with the introduction of the Job Retention Scheme to provide some level of financial income and security for employees operating through PAYE, but this comes to an end in October 2020.

Whilst awaiting further detailed advice and guidance on the Job Support Scheme, it would appear that a significant numbers of workers, including supply teachers, will be unable to access support under the Job Support Scheme as they may fall outside the scope of the Scheme.

The Union is concerned at the significant impact this will have on supply teachers if they are not able to access the Job Support Scheme at a time when many supply teachers have seen their opportunities for work diminish.

The NASUWT believes that this urgent issue must be clarified as a matter of priority. It is absolutely critical that agency workers, such as supply teachers are able to access some level of financial support from the Government going forwards.

The NASUWT would welcome particular consideration is given to how the Government is able to support these teachers, and would welcome an assurance from you that this will be looked into as a matter of urgency and raised with colleagues in the Treasury and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

I look forward to your positive response on these very important matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Roach', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary