

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: KW/01068/21

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary
NASUWT

Emma.James@mail.nasuwt.org.uk

17 February 2021

Dear Patrick

Thank you for your further correspondence in relation to support for supply teachers following my reply to your previous concerns – ref (KW/00294/21).

In relation to the Furlough Scheme, I must clarify that employment matters are generally reserved, with financial support available for these workers in Wales determined by the UK Government. Welsh Government has no mandate to interfere with how private businesses determine which of their employees they furlough. These agencies are bound by the Furlough Scheme terms and conditions set out by the UK Government and it is they who must decide how they can make use of the Scheme.

Welsh Government is not the employer of school staff and decisions in relation to their employment are matters for local authorities, schools or agencies.

However, the NPS has contacted framework agencies encouraging them to make use of the Furlough Scheme where appropriate and I understand that the majority of agencies have reported they will do so. The decision by HMT to change the rules back in November resulting in agencies being required to contribute to NI and pension contributions will clearly have an impact on how many employees an agency may be able to furlough.

It is incorrect to say that there has been an absence of any further advice from Welsh Government. On the 23rd December, Business Wales provided updated guidance on the revised Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – commonly known as the Furlough Scheme. This can be viewed [here](#). Moreover, we update all the guidance available on our websites where appropriate to do so, and as I have previously mentioned, my colleagues at NPS are in touch with all framework agencies in relation to the Furlough Scheme changes from UK Government.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

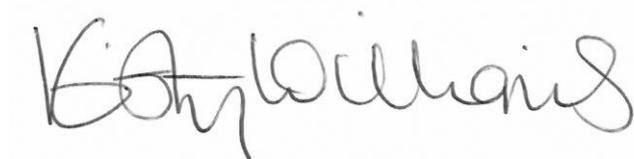
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Additionally, officials within my department have provided individual written advice and guidance directly to supply teachers who have emailed their queries and concerns to my Office.

I should also point out that all schools currently remain open to vulnerable learners and to children of key workers. Schools may still need supply cover to ensure that they are able to staff on-site provision, and prepare remote learning for those not in school.

I have also announced a return to school for foundation phase children in Wales from 22nd February. This should provide additional opportunities for supply teachers and I recommend that they discuss what opportunities are available with their employers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

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