



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

Ministerial  
Correspondence  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
LONDON  
SW1H 9DA

0207 340 4000

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

[ministers@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:ministers@dwp.gov.uk)

Dr Patrick Roach  
[Emma.James@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:Emma.James@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)

Your ref: 201019/COFFEY, T/PR/EJ  
Our ref: MC2020/62791

16 November 2020

Dear Dr Roach,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October to the Secretary of State regarding financial support for supply teachers during the pandemic. I am replying as the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work.

We have a strong safety net that helps people who are facing hardship and are unable to support themselves financially. Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) provides a minimum level of income for employees when they are off work sick or incapable of work. It is paid by employers at a flat rate of £95.85 per week for up to 28 weeks in any one period of entitlement.

SSP is available to employees who are required to self-isolate either because they are, or someone in their household is, displaying symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus, or have been contacted by the NHS or health authority because they have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus. SSP eligibility conditions apply, including the requirement to self-isolate for at least 4 days in a row (including non-working days) and to have average earnings of at least £120 per week.

SSP is just part of our welfare safety net and our wider government offer to support people in times of need. Where an individual's income is reduced while off work sick and they require further financial support, for example, where they are not eligible for SSP, they may be able to claim Universal Credit and new style Employment and Support Allowance, depending on their personal circumstances.

Working people on low incomes who are required to remain at home by NHS Test and Trace and cannot work from home could be eligible for a £500 payment to financially support them while self-isolating. To be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment, an individual must:

- have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace either because they've tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- be employed or self-employed;
- be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and
- be currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, and/or Pension Credit.

I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Kind regards,



**Justin Tomlinson MP**

Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work