

Date: 14 September 2020

Your Ref:

Our ref: 200914/Sunak R/PR/FC

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Chief Secretary's Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

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General Secretary
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Dear Mr Sunak,

SUPPLY TEACHERS

I am writing to you regarding the situation affecting supply teachers.

I want, firstly, to acknowledge the measures that you have introduced to protect the jobs and incomes of millions of workers. I know also that you recognise and appreciate the important and valuable contribution that all teachers, including supply teachers, make to children's education and that the continued efforts and commitment of teachers is vital to the country's economic recovery.

However, we are concerned that supply teachers are facing increased financial uncertainty as a result of the Government's decision to end the current furlough scheme and as a consequence of the Government's guidance for the safe opening of schools.

Despite the full reopening of schools on 1 September, the NASUWT has received extensive feedback from supply teachers who have been advised that they will be unable to access work opportunities as schools seek to minimise social contacts, in accordance with the Government's advice, through the use of education 'bubbles'. For many teachers, the availability of work has simply dried up. Coupled with the decision to end the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, this has left many supply teachers facing serious financial hardship.

We believe that urgent measures are needed which will enable supply teachers to remain within the teaching profession and remain available to schools as and when they are needed. However, in the absence of a specific targeted measure for these teachers, many will be lost to the profession, further hampering the national effort to ensure that all schools can remain open and can continue to provide a high quality education for children and young people.

We trust that you will agree that schools need to be confident that they will be able to call upon an available supply of qualified and committed supply teachers as they endeavour to maintain provision for children and young people throughout the

Coronavirus pandemic and beyond. The NASUWT also hopes that you will accept that supply teachers should not be penalised as schools implement the Government's guidance and that targeted measures are needed to deliver financial support for supply teachers at this time.

I look forward to your consideration of these matters. Should you or your officials wish to discuss further the points we have raised, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary