

Date: 19th October 2020

Your Ref:

Our ref: 201019/WILLIAMSON, G/PR/EJ

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP
Secretary of State
Department for Education
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NASUWT

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Dear Gavin,

Supply Teachers and income protection during self-isolation

The NASUWT is writing to you again regarding the situation for hard working and dedicated supply teachers and the increased financial uncertainty they face, particularly in situations where they might be forced to self-isolate through no fault of their own when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school or schools where they are undertaking an assignment.

As you are aware, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Self-Isolation) (England) Regulations 2020 set out mandatory periods for self-isolation and makes it an offence for an employer to knowingly permit a worker (including an agency worker) to attend any place other than where the individual is self-isolating, including situations where they live with someone who has tested positive.

As a consequence, a number of supply teachers may be forced to miss out on work. Disappointingly, the strict criteria applied to the Test and Trace Support payment means supply teachers are likely to miss out on any level of financial support unless they meet the eligibility criteria for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP).

The NASUWT is concerned at the significant impact this will have on supply teachers at a time when many supply teachers have seen their opportunities for work diminish.

Once again, the Union calls upon the Government to address this issue 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.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary