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Murdo Fraser MSP
COVID-19 Committee

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Dear Convener

At the Committee evidence session on the Social Care Staff Support Fund (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 on 28 July, I committed to writing to the Committee in response to Unison Scotland's submission which indicated that many care home providers were continuing to pay sick pay and not accessing the Social Care Staff Support Fund.

Since the Committee session, officials have been working closely with Unison, Scottish Care and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) to establish whether care providers are in fact accessing this support. CCPS and Scottish Care have been contacting providers who have staff members that have been in touch with Unison and so far they have found that these providers are using the Fund and have submitted their claims.

Further communications are to be issued shortly to ensure the workforce are aware of the Social Care Staff Support Fund and to reassure care providers of the process to follow when they need to make a claim. We continue to work in partnership with trade unions, CCPS, Scottish Care and COSLA to resolve issues as they arise in real-time.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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