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By Email.

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THE SOCIAL CARE STAFF SUPPORT FUND

Following my appearance at the Covid Committee on 28 July 2020 in relation to the Social Care Staff Support Fund, I am writing to make the Committee aware of an amendment to the Fund.

During the evidence session, members raised the issue that some social care workers who have been shielding during the Coronavirus pandemic were not placed on the UK Government Job Retention Scheme (JRS) by their employer. This resulted in them only being paid Statutory Sick Pay, or in some cases, nothing at all.

I committed to look at extending the Fund eligibility criteria for workers in such circumstances. I would like to let Committee members know that I will be laying regulations on 22 December 2020 in order to amend the Fund criteria to include this group of workers.

This will provide workers with the level of income they would have received from the JRS (80% of their expected income). Associated costs for employers will also be met, and applications should be made via employers.

I trust your members will welcome this update.

JEANE FREEMAN

