

Sent by email only

25 March 2020

Dear Fiona,

Thank you to you and your officials for coming to the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee meeting yesterday to give evidence on the response to COVID-19.

The Committee has agreed that I should write to you in relation to some matters covered during the session.

Firstly, the Committee would like to seek clarity on the guidance on who should go to work under the current COVID-19 restrictions. As discussed at the meeting, the Scottish Government guidance is that people may travel to and from work but only if it is a necessity. However, the UK Government guidance is that people should only go to work where this absolutely cannot be done from home. The Committee would ask you to clarify why there are two different sets of guidance and to provide details of the evidence that supports the Scottish Government's position.

Secondly, the Committee would welcome clarity on what constitutes a key worker (including the status of shopworkers and whether they are eligible for the childcare that is being made available).

Finally, the Committee would ask you to elaborate on the Scottish Government's current thinking on plans for economic stimulus to aid economic recovery when the crisis abates.

As these matters are pertinent to the current circumstances of businesses in Scotland, I would be grateful for a response as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Michelle Ballantyne MSP
Convener
Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee