

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

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Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By email.

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Dear Lewis

Covid-19: Death in Service Benefit for NHS Scotland Staff

You may recall that I wrote to the Committee on 24 April 2020 confirming the Scottish Government's intention to bring forward bespoke administrative arrangements to establish a scheme that provides a death in service lump sum and survivor's benefits to all staff directly employed by NHS Scotland Boards, alongside staff who are providing NHS services. I signalled in that correspondence that my officials were working with employers and our trade union partners in developing draft scheme rules, with the aim of publishing those on 01 May 2020.

Since I last wrote, discussions have been ongoing in respect of the proposed administration of the scheme and the delivery vehicle. Given the importance of this scheme, it is important that we get those aspects right. Unfortunately, this means that we have not been able to share the draft scheme rules today as planned. I can provide assurance however that we will publish the scheme rules shortly. As intimated in my previous correspondence, this will have no impact on eligibility in respect of the scheme as the intention would be to apply the scheme provisions retrospectively as appropriate.

JEANE FREEMAN

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