

Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By Email.

7 May 2020

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 then, and in subsequent correspondence on 1 May 2020, that my officials were working with employers and our trade union partners in developing this.

I am pleased to enclose draft scheme rules for **The NHS Scotland Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020**. Upon formal publication of the Scheme Rules, the scheme will be retrospectively effective from 17 March 2020, the day on which I stood NHS Scotland up on an emergency footing as a response to the CV-19 pandemic. It is my intention to publish the Scheme Rules in the week commencing Monday 11 May 2020.

In addition, you will also be aware that I have confirmed my intention for Community Pharmacists to be provided with Covid-19 related death in service benefit, and will provide further detail on the provision to be made for that staff-group in due course.

JEANE FREEMAN