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By email.

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

I wrote to you on 14 May to confirm that the **NHS Scotland Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020** had been launched which provides temporary COVID-19 related death in service cover of a lump sum and survivor's benefits to all staff directly employed by NHS Scotland Boards, alongside staff who are providing NHS services, who do not have equivalent cover through membership of the NHS Pension Scheme.

I have taken the opportunity to review this provision, in particular whether it continues to provide staff with the reassurance they seek, and ensures they feel valued and supported at this time. In addition to the above scheme, which offers ongoing survivors benefits to those staff not in the NHS pension scheme, I have decided to offer a single £60,000 death in service payment to all NHS staff's dependants, which is in addition to any cover in place through NHS Pension Scheme membership. This provision 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. Similar provision has been made for the social care workforce. The scheme is live and can be found at this link: <https://pensions.gov.scot/news/nhs-scotland-coronavirus-life-assurance-scheme>

In addition there are students from Higher Education Institutes who undertake clinical placements on NHS premises. The majority of these placements commence in September and are essential for the training and supply of the future clinical workforce to NHS Scotland. I have therefore agreed in principle to offer these students a temporary CV19 related death in service provision, and have asked my officials to explore options for this. I will update you in due course of the provision students will be offered.

**JEANE FREEMAN**

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