



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: STATUTORY SICK PAY FOR CARE WORKERS DURING CORONAVIRUS**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for frontline care workers during the Coronavirus pandemic; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women stepping up to the challenge in unprecedented times to keep us safe.

Carers who are directly affected by COVID-19 may be eligible for SSP, which is now payable from the first day of sickness absence (as opposed to day four), where an individual is sick or self-isolating. SSP is available to eligible employees who are required to self-isolate because they or someone in their household displays symptoms of Coronavirus. These measures are in place to ensure that everyone is supported in doing the right thing and staying at home should they become unwell. I would add that SSP is the legal minimum and many employees do receive more than this.

Carers may also be eligible to claim Contributory Employment & Support Allowance (ESA). This is now payable from the first day of sickness, rather than the eighth.

Extremely vulnerable people who were advised to 'shield' have also been eligible to claim SSP if they cannot work at home. However, I know that many people in this situation were furloughed, meaning eligible employees receive 80 percent of their wages, up to £2,500 per month.

I hope this reassures you that there is a range of support available for anyone who finds themselves unable to work because of Coronavirus. I would encourage anyone in this situation to visit the GOV.UK website to find out exactly what support they are eligible for.

You may already be aware that the Infection Control Fund helps care providers pay staff full wages while self-isolating, as well as enabling staff to work in only one care home to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. It is most welcome that care providers in England will benefit from an additional £546 million as an extension of the fund, to boost infection control, reduce COVID-19 transmission, and help protect residents and staff throughout the winter. This brings the total funding for infection control measures in care homes to over £1.1 billion.

Moreover, people receiving adult social care and care workers will receive free PPE, in a further step to aim to curb the spread of COVID-19 in care settings. The new appointment of a Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care to represent social care nurses and provide clinical leadership, underlines the Government's commitment to ensuring the social care workforce



and care homes are properly supported, which is especially important in the forthcoming winter months.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*  
*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**