

Dear Minister

I am a substitute teacher who has been unable to work because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the necessary school closures which it has brought about. The effects of this dire set of circumstances has been to place me and my family in financial difficulty and is causing me severe stress.

I call upon you to act now to extend to me the same level of financial cover that is being extended to my friends and relations who are benefitting from the Job Retention Scheme. I understand that that this Scheme is primarily designed to provide income protection to private sector workers but in the last forty-eight hours it has now been extended to some public sector workers and I fail to understand why I and my colleagues cannot now be afforded some similar type of income protection.

I am further confused as to why monies that would have been needed to support substitute teacher provision in schools over this period, anyway, no longer seem to be available. I call upon you to put in place income protection for me as a matter of urgency. I remind you that I and my colleagues who are not in full-time employment are nevertheless essential to the running of schools and are deserving of payment.

When schools are re-opened, at a time when it is safe to do so, you and the employing authorities will again need me, and I will respond. I must request that you treat me with the respect I am entitled to and demonstrate that by putting in place a payment scheme which affords me the opportunity to support myself and my family through these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

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