



Monday 30/3/2020

To Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak, Matt Hancock

We represent the Nation's care providers who care and support over **1.2 million** vulnerable people across all forms of social care.

We are providing vital services in response to the COVID 19 crisis, supporting the NHS by helping free up hospital beds for those who will be admitted due to the virus as well as caring for those who have contracted it.

We applaud the government's actions to help the NHS, the social care sector and the wider economy.

However, you will appreciate that staffing has long been a challenge in our sector, and now, more than ever, we need staff to cover the increased demand on our services and cover staff shortages caused by sickness and self-isolation.

New employees could have been sourced from the industries that are currently closed including retail, hospitality and leisure. However – the application of furlough and payment of 80% of salary prevents these staff from seeking paid work in the social care sector.

We are writing to request that you clarify in legislation that anyone wishing to work in the provision of care including the NHS or any form of Social Care, will be permitted to take up paid employment in the NHS and with social care providers, even if they are currently furloughed in other industries and receiving 80% of their wage.

Very simply, please allow furloughed workers to receive their 80% payment AND to work in care and get paid for this at no penalty. Please allow the NHS and social care providers to employ such people with no penalty.

This action would have a significant positive impact on our staffing and our ability to maintain the high level of care we currently provide. It would help us support our existing workforce's health and wellbeing and provide cover for the inevitable loss of staff to sickness and self-isolation.

Our teams are doing an incredible job under extreme pressure and putting themselves at risk everyday – we want to do everything we can to support them.

Yours sincerely, the Social Care Sector