



Ein cyf/Our ref: OQ55916

Angela Burns MS
Member of the Senedd for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Angela.Burns@senedd.wales

3 December 2020

Dear Angela

Thank you for your supplementary question on 25 November in relation to more information on the financial support available to supply teachers. I agreed to provide you with a written response.

As employment law is non-devolved, the financial support available during the pandemic for teachers (including supply) is determined by the UK Government. However, we have been working with our stakeholders and have produced a range of guidance covering the different types of support available for the education sector, which is available on the Welsh Government website.

I published an open letter specifically for supply staff in Wales entitled [Coronavirus: support for the supply sector](#). This letter acknowledged the importance and value of supply teachers across Wales and outlined the different financial support available including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough); Statutory Sick Pay (SSP); and Universal Credit. The letter also contained links to explanatory details for those unsure of their employment status and to frequently asked questions.

In preparation for the reopening of schools in the autumn term, [Operational guidance for schools including employment of supply staff](#) was issued to schools across Wales.

Supply teachers can be employed directly by schools, through local authorities, or via agencies.

For those recruited directly by schools or local authorities, there is an expectation that supply teachers will be treated fairly and in line with permanent teaching staff. If a school has asked a supply teacher to self-isolate as a result of a confirmed case at the school, it would not be unreasonable to expect them to honour the remainder of the contract. This will

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

include unexpected temporary school closures, periods of isolation due to catching Covid 19, and periods of isolation as advised by the track and trace system.

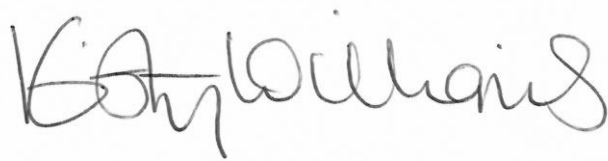
For those supply staff employed via agencies, the Welsh Government promotes the use of agencies on the National Procurement Service's Supply Agency Framework. There are tangible benefits for supply teachers employed by framework agencies, not least a minimum pay rate and compliance with the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough).

Supply teachers who are self-isolating due to Covid 19 may be eligible for additional support, whether they are working or are currently unemployed, through the [Self-isolation Support Scheme](#) if they meet the requirements set out within the guidance.

For those not eligible but are also unable to work due to Covid 19 (whether displaying symptoms or not), they may be able to claim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) as set out in the guidance: [Contact tracing: support for workers and the self-employed](#).

Welsh Government continues to work with all stakeholders, including the UK Government to ensure the best possible financial support for supply teachers in Wales. However, I should point out that the level of financial support for supply staff is a matter between employers and employees and will vary depending on individual circumstances. Our advice to concerns raised by supply staff is to contact their employer to determine the detail of their contract and the level of support available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is positioned above the printed name.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education