

MC2020/27817



HM Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

19 August 2020

Dear Sir George Howarth,

Mrs Rosemary Owen-Jones  
38 Seel Road, Liverpool

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 July regarding support for those with blood cancer during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Treasury has received unprecedented amounts of correspondence since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the UK and I am sorry for the delay so far in replying. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked me to write to you directly.

The Government understands that COVID-19 has posed significant challenges for those suffering with cancer. This group has access like others to the unprecedented level of support for people's incomes that the Government has introduced in response to COVID-19. This does not just include the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), but also the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS), changes to Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) and the £9.3 billion which the Office for Budget Responsibility estimates the Government has injected into the welfare system.

The Chancellor announced on 12 May that the CJRS scheme will be extended until October. Before 30 June, any employee could be furloughed, including those suffering from cancer. From 1 July, an employee can only continue to be furloughed if they have previously been furloughed for at least three consecutive weeks taking place any time between 1 March 2020 and 30 June.

For those required to shield after 1 August, they will receive letters/notification advising them of this, and they will continue to be eligible for SSP on the basis of their shielding status.

The Government will of course continue to keep this situation under review.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions about this reply, please email [public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk) quoting reference MC2020/27817.

Yours sincerely,

L Adams

Correspondence and Enquiry Unit  
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