Ms Christine Keates

General Secretary, NASUWT

Hillcourt Education Centre

Rose Hill

Rednal

Birmingham

B45 8RS

Date

Dear Ms Keates,

Thank you for your letter of date xxx. We share your concerns about the ongoing situation with Covid-19 and specifically its impact on agency workers including supply teachers. We completely agree with your comments on the hugely valuable role supply teachers play in the education system.

We are fully aware of our obligation to pay Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) to all those agency workers who are eligible. We have followed the announcements you mentioned closely. To confirm that from 13 March we have paid SSP from day one to those eligible supply teachers who have been absent from work due to Covid-19 related sickness or as they were advised to self-isolate.

In your letter, you refer to the changes made in the Budget to Universal Credit and Employment and Support Allowance. We will do what we can to raise awareness of this with agency supply teachers, but we also think the Government should go further to ensure that supply teachers do not struggle while schools are closed. We would welcome it if you would pressurise the Government on this issue and call for access to welfare to be simpler and quicker.

Thanks again for raising this important matter with us. Please do get in touch with me if you would like to discuss anything in this letter further. We hope that we can work together over this challenging period to ensure the wellbeing of supply teachers.

Yours sincerely,

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