



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

3 April 2020

Peter Cheese FCIPD
Chief Executive
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
151 The Broadway
London SW19 1QJ

Dear Peter,

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Thank you for your letter and kind words about the £350bn support package to help businesses and individuals to manage through the coronavirus outbreak.

You asked that we do more to protect jobs and employment security. The Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme (CJRS) and Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) are unprecedented steps to make sure that jobs are supported through this time. The CJRS means workers in any part of the UK can retain their job, even if their employer cannot afford to pay them, and be paid at least 80% of their salary, up to a total of £2,500 a month. The Coronavirus SEISS will allow the eligible self-employed to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. HMRC are working night and day to get these schemes up and running, and we have published more information and guidance on gov.uk.

You raised a specific point about encouraging training and development. We always wish to encourage greater training and development. On the CJRS, furloughed employees will be able to undertake training. This will allow them to develop new skills for when they return to work. We have published more detailed guidance on this on www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme.

You also highlighted the need to support those not eligible for statutory sick pay, including the self-employed. We have announced measures at Budget and on 20th March to support these groups including a £20 per week increase to the Universal Credit standard allowance and Working Tax Credit basic element, an increase in the Local Housing Allowance to the 30th percentile of market rents and providing specific support for the self-employed by temporarily relaxing the Minimum Income Floor for all self-employed Universal Credit claimants from 6th April, for the duration of the outbreak.

It is always vital that HM Treasury captures insights from the people and organisations it serves. As the country comes together to tackle this outbreak, this need has never been so true. Officials will be in touch to gather your views.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rishi Sunak'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first name 'Rishi' written in a cursive script and the last name 'Sunak' written in a more blocky, cursive style.

RISHI SUNAK