

BY EMAIL

Steve Barclay  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

31 January 2023

Dear Mr Barclay,

**Possible under-claiming by bereaved families of social care workers under the government's NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020**

I write to ask if there is any possibility that the bereaved families of social care workers who died from COVID-19 contracted at work have under-claimed under the NHS & Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme 2020, for England and Wales?

According to NHSBSA FOI data, roughly two thirds of accepted claims to the scheme to date have related to NHS workers, when the social care workforce is slightly larger than the NHS workforce. And it is despite the fact that ONS gave a higher estimate for deaths involving COVID for social care workers than healthcare workers in the period March 2020 to February 2022. Please see the details here:

<https://minhalexander.com/2023/01/30/the-government-has-accepted-744-claims-by-the-families-of-health-and-social-care-frontline-workers-in-england-and-wales-who-died-during-the-pandemic-and-has-so-far-paid-over-43million-compensation/>

Has the government done all it can to raise awareness amongst eligible bereaved families of social care workers about the life assurance scheme? This seems especially important given that many of the social care workers who died from COVID-19 contracted at work would have been on lower pay, and the £60,000 lump sum from the scheme would be an important protection for their families.

Lastly, if there is any possibility that not all eligible families are aware, would the government consider extending its window for applications to the scheme? I understand that the window closes on 31 March 2023 in England and on 30 June 2023 in Wales.

I copy this to the Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services with the same query.

With best wishes,

Dr Minh Alexander

Cc

Eluned Morgan Welsh Minister for Health and Social Services

Baroness Heather Hallett/ UK COVID Public Inquiry

Warren Kenny GMB General Secretary

Sharon Graham Unite General Secretary

Christina McAnea UNISON General Secretary