



Chris Heaton-Harris
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House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about Leukaemia sufferers and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS).

I am troubled to hear about the impact which the pandemic has had on those suffering from Leukaemia. I know how difficult this time is for Leukaemia sufferers, both for their physical and mental health and I welcome that guidance for the clinically extremely vulnerable setting out support and assistance for the Step 4 reopening has been published. I hope this guidance offers some much-needed reassurance.

The instruction to work from home has now ended, as have legal requirements around social distancing. However, the Government has been absolutely clear that employers should make sure suitable arrangements are in place for vulnerable employees to work safely and provide mental health and wellbeing support. They should also consider whether clinically extremely vulnerable individuals can change their working patterns temporarily to avoid travelling during busy periods. BEIS guidance on working can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19>

The CJRS has been extended until the end of September having protected the jobs of 11.5 million people so far. Under the extension the government previously paid 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500, with employers paying employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) and pension contributions only for the hours the employee does not work.

As restrictions are eased and the economy begins to reopen, businesses will be asked to contribute alongside the taxpayer to the cost of paying their employees for hours not worked. Since 1st July 2021, the Government pays 70% of wages up to a maximum cap of £2187.50 for the hours the employee is on furlough. The Government will ask for a small contribution from employers of 10% in July, and 20% in August and September, towards the hours their staff do not work. This will ensure employees will receive 80% of wages up to £2,500 in total for the hours the employee is on furlough.

It is important to note that employers do not need to have used the CJRS previously to claim for this CJRS extension. Employers across the UK can claim, whether their businesses are open or closed.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY

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