



21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE – ENGLAND

### DEATH IN SERVICE

### COVID-19

The Government have announced a Life Assurance Scheme (Death in Service) for key workers in the health and social care sector in England – separate arrangements apply in the devolved countries.

#### **What is it?**

The death in service scheme is a tax free lump sum payment of £60,000 given to the family of any key worker in health and social care in England who dies as a result of getting Covid, on or after 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, although deaths prior to this date will also be considered. This is a flat rate payment for all who are eligible, irrelevant of job role or pay grade / rate and additional to any benefits provided by the NHS Pension Scheme.

**Individuals do not have to be in any pension scheme to be eligible.**

The scheme is being managed by the National Health Service Business Service Authority (NHSBSA) and all information is hosted on [their website](#).

#### **Why is it £60,000?**

The Government state this rate was agreed in recognition of the higher than usual dangerous working environments and is higher than the average NHS pension scheme entitlement.

#### **What is the eligibility criteria?**

A person must have been working in a workplace where Covid is present and must have been in work within 2 weeks of developing symptoms.

The workplace must be in a health or social care sector setting in patient facing / service user facing roles. This includes the NHS, ambulance services, outsourced



health services, private care, local authority care, care homes and home care. This will include cleaners and caterers providing there was Covid present in their workplace.

### **Will it affect my current pension entitlements?**

No. It is in addition to any benefits you may be entitled to under existing NHS or other occupational pension schemes.

### **How do my family apply?**

An application form is available on the BSA website at:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/scheme-information-claimants>

This is to be completed with the employer who will sign off to confirm that all eligibility requirements have been met. It is not expected that employers will refuse applications providing the eligibility requirement has been met. The Government fund this payment, not the employer.

### **I am not a UK citizen, am I still eligible?**

The families of migrant workers will have access to the scheme, providing they were working in health and social care in England. The scheme does not cover repatriation costs, but some local employers may choose to fund this.

The GMB Union has been at the forefront of challenging employers and government on the lack of protection at work that's why we launched the Get Me PPE Campaign. This campaign also includes a [Covid 19 Risk Register](#).

In addition, the GMB continues to make further representation to government on extending the scheme to all key workers who are at risk of contracting coronavirus in the course of their duties.

If you have any queries regarding this please email [PublicServices@gmb.org.uk](mailto:PublicServices@gmb.org.uk)

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