

# Covid Social Care Worker Death in Service Payment

### Introduction

Tragically, some care workers have died due to coronavirus. Following pressure from UNISON, the Scottish Government [has agreed](#) to make a one-off payment of £60,000 to a named survivor of any social care worker who dies in service, and whose contracted pension arrangements do not offer death in service cover.

The payment came into effect on 17 March 2020 and will continue until revoked by Ministers. This briefing explains who qualifies under the scheme and how claims can be made.

### Context

Pressure from UNISON achieved this payment for the survivors of social care workers. It follows a similar deal reached for health staff.

UNISON campaigned hard to make politicians and the public understand the hardships social care workers faced during the pandemic because of the poor terms and conditions of employment offered by private and third sector care providers. The case for all care workers being entitled to the same conditions and protections, regardless of who their employer is, was overwhelming.

### Who is eligible?

Someone can apply to the scheme if they are the survivor of a member of the social care workforce who has died in service and any of the following apply:

- They had been providing social care services in the course of their employment during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, had been working in environments where it may reasonably be concluded that they contracted COVID-19 during the course of their duties, and had COVID-19 as a factor in their death recorded on their death certificate.
- Their cause of death is known or suspected (but not necessarily documented on a death certificate) to be at least partly attributable to COVID-19, and they had been working in, or adjacent to, areas in which there had been persons with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis being cared for.

### KEY POINTS:

- **UNISON pressure wins a one-off death in service payment for the survivors of care workers who die from coronavirus**
- **The payment of £60,000 will be made by the Scottish Government and came into effect on 17 March 2020**
- **Application is made to the deceased person's employer providing full details and documentation**



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## How to apply

### If you are the deceased person's next of kin:

You should contact the deceased person's employer and provide as much detail as possible about the circumstances surrounding the death, including any documents relating to the causes of their death.

You should provide your personal details, including full name, age and address, and payment details and preferred method of payment.

Provide details of your relationship with the deceased, including whether you are a nominee, a relative or a dependent of the deceased, or another person who was likely to succeed to any of the estate of the deceased.

### If you are applying on behalf of someone else

You should contact the deceased person's employer and provide:

- As much detail as possible about the circumstances surround their death, including any documentation relating to the causes of their death.
- The personal detail of the person on whose behalf you are applying, including full name, age and address (and your own details including your relationship to the prospective beneficiary)
- Details of the prospective beneficiary's relationship with the deceased, including whether they are a nominee, a relative or a dependent of the deceased or another person who was likely to succeed to any of the estate of the deceased.

Given the continuing restrictions, photographs or scans of documents can be used in evidence.

### What happens next

As soon as reasonably practicable the employer will pass the application to the Scottish Ministers for determination. Employers should send applications to:

[SCSDivision@gov.scot](mailto:SCSDivision@gov.scot)

### Further Information:

UNISON announcement of the payment - 23 May 2020

<https://www.unison-scotland.org/unison-pressure-secures-sick-pay-and-death-in-service-benefit-for-care-staff/>

BBC News coverage

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-52785263>

Scottish Government information on the payment – 10 July 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-social-care-worker-death-in-service-payment/>

Detailed Rules for the Death in Benefit Pension Scheme

[https://pensions.gov.scot/sites/default/files/2020-07/The\\_NHS\\_Scotland\\_and\\_Social\\_Care\\_Coronavirus\\_Life\\_Assurance\\_Scheme\\_2020.pdf](https://pensions.gov.scot/sites/default/files/2020-07/The_NHS_Scotland_and_Social_Care_Coronavirus_Life_Assurance_Scheme_2020.pdf)



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