



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Willie Rennie MSP**  
**Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture

Sent by email

1 July 2020

Ref: A11123/2020/SM

Dear Fiona

**Re: Complementary Therapy – Covid-19**

I have been contacted by one of my constituents highlighting the difficulties they are experiencing due to the ongoing situation surrounding Covid-19.

My constituent has explained they are a self-employed Complementary Therapists. Between the Self Employed Income Support Scheme and Universal Credit my constituent is only receiving £300 per month to live on. This is 25% of their former income, compared to the 80% given to those who have been furloughed.

The Association of Reflexologists has put together detailed guidance on how to return to work safely based on the Government advice, with the utmost consideration for clients' and the therapists' health. The industry had anticipated this to be on 15th July in line with hairdressers and barbers and were looking forward to seeing clients again in a Covid-19 secure way.

My constituent tells me they are deeply concerned that this valued service is not still available to help and support people's wellbeing and mental health during this time of crisis. Reflexology is all about the feet, so the high-risk zones of the therapist and the client do not interconnect, and facial coverings for both parties will be expected. As hairdressers (who do work in this zone) have been allowed to return, they see no reason for reflexologists not to be able to return to work, as they have in place stringent hygiene and safety guidelines which are in line with the new Covid-19 Secure government guidance.

I would be very grateful if you could urgently review this decision and consider allowing Complementary Therapists to return to work.

Yours sincerely

Willie Rennie  
Liberal Democrat Member of the Scottish Parliament for North East Fife