**FURLOUGH**

Given the unprecedented difficulties facing employees who provide School Meals and Cleaning Provisions following the Government's decision to close Schools, GMB are writing to all Contractors who provide these services to ascertain what measures they have put in place for staff.

GMB are asking all Private Contractors who provide School meals and Facility Management services to apply the Governments Job Retention scheme in order for our members to be paid.

The Governments Job Retention scheme provides that companies are able to apply for financial support to pay employees 80% of their wages up to a maximum of £2.500 per month during this current Public Health crisis. These measures introduced by the Government, remove the need for employers to lay people off, or make redundancies which may otherwise be necessary in the near future.

The GMB understand from the Chancellors guidance, for employers to access the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, employers needs to designate affected employees as ‘**furloughed workers’.**

Workers will remain employed while furloughed (off work and paid 80% of salary), and the GMB would expect companies to fund the differences between this payment and employees salary.

It is our view that employers should consult with individual members of staff who are designated as furloughed workers for their agreement. Furloughed agreements should be on a temporary basis subject to the Governments retention scheme time duration.

If you have been selected to work on reduced hours instead of being furloughed, or your employer is seeking your consent to be laid off, it is important that you contact the Union with the details of your employer so that we contact them accordingly.

If you need to contact the GMB you can contact us via our

Or you can contact our GMB London Region support centre: <https://www.gmblondon.org.uk/support>

For more information, the **GMB National website** is being updated daily. If you are unable to contact a rep or officer, **GMB Unionline Legal Assistance**has a dedicated Coronavirus phone line on 0114 296 2072, or if you need any further legal advice from Unionline, you can call them on 0300 333 0303.

**Join the GMB Union –**if you know a colleague who is not a GMB member and wants to join on line please go to <https://www.gmb.org.uk/join-gmb>