

Written evidence submitted by Jane Simpson

Summary

- NHS Lothian
- No hours guaranteed but I have worked full time for almost two years
- No work since 23/03/20 i.e. lockdown
- Advised no furlough
- Various reasons given – “you are not an employee”, “this does not apply to the public sector”
- I am paying PAYE
- NHS Lothian is receiving money to cover my salary but neither paying this to me or putting me on furlough
- By contrast my sister in the private sector employment will by 30 June have received 4 months x £2500 furlough = £10,000 this despite our circumstances being identical
- This is grossly divisive on a societal basis in terms of me now having little interest in voting etc. or “doing the right thing” as I have done all my life
- I have worked all my life (aged 16 to 53 years) and I feel totally alienated from the system and made to feel worthless – I can assure you that it is a terrible feeling
- This is not what was promised by the Chancellor
- In addition there will be many people in the “redundancy waiting room” who will receive close on £2,500 x 8 months furlough when the usual state unemployment benefits are far less than this
- We will all be expected to pay back this massive bailout
- I am surprised that nobody has lodged a legal challenge due to the fundamentally inequitable treatment of citizens
- I am single and therefore have had no income at all for about 11 weeks
- I have been trying to apply for Universal Credit (about £90 a week in comparison) for weeks now and have just received a 19 page form through the post to complete – my sister says that her firm had to complete far less paperwork to get tens of thousands of pounds support

June 2020