



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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Rt Hon John McDonnell MP  
Shadow Chancellor  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Shadow Chancellor,

During the Opposition Day Debate on the Financial and Social Emergency Support Package on Wednesday 25 March, you asked questions about apprenticeships on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. I committed to write to you with further information about the measures being taken.

To be eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, employees must have been on a company's PAYE payroll on 28 February 2020, and can be on any type of contract, including an apprenticeship. Where apprentices are furloughed they can continue to train for their apprenticeships as long as it does not provide services to or generate revenue for their employer. If apprentices are required to complete training whilst they are furloughed then they must be paid at least the National Living Wage or National Minimum Wage for the time spent training, even if this is more than the 80% of their wage that will be subsidised.

There are no limits on the number or proportion of employees a firm can furlough. Guidance for employers and employees regarding the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been published on gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>.

I hope this information is helpful. I am depositing this letter in the House Library.

**SIMON CLARKE MP**