



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Alex Rowley MSP
Member for Mid Scotland and Fife

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Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
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Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding the issues of care workers pay, the rising costs of fuel and the Scottish Government's proposals for a new National Care Service.

As you know, I have raised previously with yourself a number of issues around the proposals for a National Care Service as well as my immediate concerns over a number of issues that I feel should be dealt with right now. You will no doubt be aware that rising fuel costs are having a massive impact on people in every work sector across the country, however care workers in particular are being hit hard through the rising cost of petrol and diesel.

I have spoken with many care workers who travel between clients using their personal vehicle as a matter of necessity. I have been made aware that many of them only are paid a mileage allowance of 25p per mile. Compare this to the public sector, where mileage is general upwards of 45p per mile, you can see a clear disparity.

It is very clear that care workers are struggling with high workloads and low pay, so the rising costs of fuel and poor mileage allowance is compounding an already tough situation. This again makes clear the case as to why care workers need more money in their pockets right now. I would like to reiterate calls to increase care workers minimum pay to at least £15 per hour. There is clearly an unfair and unequal situation being faced by care workers in the private sector compared to those who are employed in the public sector.

With all this in mind, would the Scottish Government consider introducing a National Mileage Rate now so that carers are not facing out of pocket expenses from simply doing their job, and at the same time help to address the unequal terms faced between private and publicly employed carers? Surely all carers deserve to be paid the same mileage rate, without doing so the compounding pressures will continue to devastate the sector, and penalise the already hardworking staff.

Kind regards,

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