

Coronavirus Measures - Next Steps
Fri 27/03/2020 08:31

Dear colleagues

In my last email I explained that FSC was actively making every effort to access all the available government help to reduce the strain on FSC's financial resources and reserves as a result of recent government guidelines.

The government has explicitly recognised this economic risk to businesses through its Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. It will allow FSC to claim a grant of up to 80% of your wages up to a cap of £2,500 per month, and we will pay the remaining employment costs. The initial phase of the Retention Scheme is for a period of three months starting on 1st March and will be subject to review.

One month has already passed so we need to act quickly. The Furlough Strategy team are currently assessing which staff are able to be furloughed, and those staff will be advised as soon as possible – within the next few days and by 1st April at the latest. Remaining staff will be expected to continue to work and will be contacted to discuss the details.

For those staff furloughed, please consider offering your time and skills to the national effort, for example volunteering to help the NHS or being part of a local hub. To enable FSC to claim the money we have to meet the set criteria which means that no furloughed employee would be able to undertake any work for FSC (even on a voluntary basis) during the furloughed period.

What I really want to emphasise is that whether you are on furlough or whether you are needed to remain at your post, you will be doing the best possible thing for FSC and our ability to survive the economic impact of Covid-19. I want us all to unite around that thought. Each option will have its particular challenges. To that end, it's more important than ever to keep in touch with all your colleagues and build on the mutual support networks that are popping up all over FSC.

Let us know what you are doing, send in your pictures and remember to keep encouraging those that are working from home. We want to really capture how FSC got through this crisis.

As I stood by the front door with my family last night at 8pm I thought will anyone else clap? Next door started, and we could hear the sounds reverberate into the night as thousands of us joined in. It was moving and inspiring to realise that we are all in this, pulling together. I know that we are asking a lot of people in a short time. Thank you once again for rising to the challenge.

Please keep safe, wash your hands and maintain your social distancing

Best wishes

Mark