# The Forgotten Key Worker

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24th July 2020

Dear Minister Weir,

As a Registered childminder in Northern Ireland I feel totally let down by our government with regards to the recognition and support I have received throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic. During this time Childminders were and still are the lynchpin which held/holds the ability for not only Key Workers but all parents now to return to work. Over 50% of 2,700 childminders continued to work during lockdown unlike other childcare settings. There was very little mention of the 50% of childminders that remained open and a lot more about the other childcare settings. The average childminder earns around £2000 per month and due to Covid-19 this was greatly reduced.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a registered Childminder in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Trust. I am writing to you to let you know how disheartened, insulted and invisible the department has made not only myself but many childminders feel throughout this pandemic.

Before COVID-19 I was earning £\_\_\_\_\_\_\_each month (before expenses).

I worked/ didn’t work/ was shielding during the Covid-19 pandemic and lost \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_% of my wages each month.

This drastic change in my income has had a massive impact on me and my family in the following ways:

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The latest announcement from The Department of Education is nothing but an insult. I have seen how well the rest of the childcare sector has been financially supported compared to childminders and it makes me question how much you value childminders in the sector. I urge you to please reconsider your decision of the amount of money awarded to childminders in the Childcare Recovery Plan and increase it to a sum that is fair and reflects the recognition that we deserve.

Yours Sincerely