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GMB win for bereaved families under Covid Death in Service scheme

Following GMB pressure Scottish Government have decided to extend £60,000 death in service scheme to NHS workers.

The GMB is happy to announce that NHS workers and their families in Scotland will now be covered by the same benefits for death in service due to Covid 19 that NHS and social care workers throughout the rest of the UK have been given during this difficult time.

In April Boris Johnson announced that health and social care workers would be part of a death in service scheme which meant all families of workers in these fields were entitled to a payment of £60,000 on top of any existing pension arrangements if their death was due to the Covid pandemic.

The GMB was outraged when the Scottish Government decided to not honour this and instead only give a benefit of twice a workers annual salary and a very small pension to those who currently are not members of a pension scheme. Those workers who were part of a pension scheme would only be entitled to what the pension scheme would give them. This would have meant many families of the lowest paid workers in the NHS would receive far less than the £60,000 that workers in the same position in the rest of the UK would receive.

This inequality was further compounded last week by the fact that the Scottish Government announced that they were extending the £60,000 scheme to social care workers in Scotland and not to the families of hard working NHS staff.

The GMB is the only union in Scotland that applied pressure to the Scottish Government about this matter. We are pleased to announce that the Scottish Government have decided to come into line with all the other areas of the UK. The help that this will provide to families in a time of deep sadness will be much appreciated.

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