

The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
**Sent by email**

Thursday, 09 April 2026

Dear Chancellor,

## Re: Increasing the non-taxable mileage rate for public sector workers

We at the British Association of Social Workers were reassured to hear you say in the House of Commons last month that you were looking at the issue of mileage payment rates. We have a long-running campaign for the non-taxable mileage rate for all public sector workers to be increased to 60p per mile. This change would reflect the real cost of using personal vehicles for work and provide essential support to staff who rely on their cars to deliver vital services in communities across the UK.

Although it is local authorities that determine how much their workers are reimbursed for their mileage, if the UK government increase the non-taxable threshold to 60p, it would be a strong signal to local authorities that their mileage rates need to increase and would leave more of that money in workers' pockets.

For many public sector professionals, particularly social workers, travel is not optional and is fundamental to their role. Social workers frequently travel significant distances to conduct home visits, attend safeguarding meetings, support vulnerable families, and respond to urgent situations. These journeys often take place in rural or poorly connected areas where public transport is not a viable option.

NHS professionals, including social workers who work for the NHS, will benefit from an even higher mileage rate from June, whereas their local authority counterparts do not receive anywhere close to this rate. There is a serious concern over parity, especially at a time when local authorities are struggling to recruit and retain social workers.

The current mileage rates, unchanged from 2011 and significantly eroded by inflation, do not adequately reflect rising fuel costs, vehicle maintenance, insurance, and depreciation. As a result, many social workers and other public sector staff are effectively subsidising the public, by using their own vehicles. This creates financial pressure at a time when workers like our members can least afford it. Recruitment and retention across public services are challenging, for social work it is a crisis, in which mileage rates play a part.

Increasing the non-taxable mileage rate to 60p would:

- Provide fair compensation for public sector workers using personal vehicles
- Support recruitment and retention across vital services
- Ensure professionals can continue to reach vulnerable individuals and communities
- Reduce financial strain on workers already facing cost-of-living pressures

Public sector workers, including social workers, play a crucial role in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Ensuring they are fairly reimbursed for necessary travel is both reasonable and essential.

I would welcome your consideration of this proposal and any steps the Treasury can take to review and increase the non-taxable mileage rate to 60p per mile for all public sector workers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Baron'.

**Professor Samantha Baron**  
Interim Chief Executive  
British Association of Social Workers

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