



The professional association for
social work and social workers

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Sent by email

Dear Ms Don and Ms Todd,

I am contacting you in relation to SASW's ongoing campaign for an increase to the mileage rates for social workers and social care workers in Scotland, which you will be aware of.

I urge you to use the powers of the Scottish Government to implement a fair mileage rate for social workers and social care workers who need to use their cars for work and are struggling with the skyrocketing cost of living. SASW is asking that you work with COSLA to fund an increase in the mileage rate, so all social workers and social care workers are paid a rate of at least 60 pence a mile, while driving for work. The current usual rate of 45p is, as you know, unchanged since 2011 and many workers are not even paid this.

SASW members and their colleagues across social services deserve a deal that matches the uplift NHS (Agenda for Change) employees received which we understand remains at 61p a mile for travel up to 3500 miles. SASW believes that this large disparity in terms and conditions for travel undermines social workers, social care workers and impacts health, social work, and social care integration as a whole. It belittles the hard work and dedication of social workers and social care workers across Scotland.

We are of course fully aware that increased payments to workers would currently be taxed. However, this will still provide additional financial support and put social workers and social care workers on a par with their colleagues in the NHS.

In a recent letter to SASW and BASW England the UK Government has confirmed that they do not plan to increase the tax-free mileage allowance (Approved Mileage Allowance Payments). We will continue to challenge the UK Government to act and remain more than dissatisfied with their responses.

Given it is clear the UK Government does not intend to act on this soon, it is vital that the Scottish Government steps up. We need this year's Scottish budget to fund the mileage rates our colleagues delivering social services to those of us who need support so urgently deserve.

I thank you for you for taking the time to read this letter and as always welcome any opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Alison

Alison Bavidge
National Director - SASW