

- Employees who are able to claim Statutory Sick Pay but for whom this is a significant drop in their income, being paid at £95.85 per week – SSP amounts to 21% of the median weekly earnings of workers in Greater Manchester and 22% in Liverpool City-Region;
- Employees are not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay because their incomes are too low. There are at least 90,000 employees in Greater Manchester and 47,000 in Liverpool City Region who are in this position – the majority will be employed in sales and customer services, process, plant and machine operatives, cleaners, bar staff, shelf stackers, hospital porters, etc;
- The self-employed who do not have an income if they are not working and even if they are able to claim Universal Credit (which will depend on individual circumstances) it is likely to be lower than their usual income. There are 186,000 people self-employed in Greater Manchester, and 84,000 in Liverpool City Region.

This financial penalty will become even more acute as the furlough scheme is phased out and more people return to work.

Mayors Rotheram and Burnham are calling for employees to still be paid their full normal wage if they are requested to self-isolate and are unable to work from home. Employers should then be able to claim that payment back from the Government. Where the employee is receiving Statutory Sick Pay, the employer should be able to claim back the difference between Statutory Sick Pay and their normal wage from the Government.

Where someone is self-employed and requested to self-isolate and is unable to work from home, they should be able to claim for loss of earnings in the same way as the payments which are made to people who are required to go on Jury Service or under the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme. Under the Jury Service process, people can claim for loss of earnings, up to a maximum daily amount.

**Metro Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotheram, said:**

"A fully functioning track and trace system is our best hope of stopping the spread of the Coronavirus and giving people the confidence to go about their lives safely. However, with no guarantee that their incomes will not be hit, millions of people – many who can't work from home or are self-employed – will be dreading the idea of being asked to self-isolate.

"We cannot beat this virus by asking people to choose between putting food on the table or keeping their communities safe. People should be supported, not penalised, for doing the right thing and isolating at home. As the Government are right to want self-isolating to be seen as a national duty. But when performing other national duties like jury service, we do not expect people to be left destitute. This should be no different."



Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

**Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, said:**