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Attachments: Income Support table.docx; Financial Support for Shielders - Policy Steer Sub - Live - 20-5-20 FINAL TC v2.doc

## Dear Name Redacted

As promised, please find a submission on financial support for the shielded attached. I should flag that we are getting a lot of X-Whitehall pressure to announce something next week on this, to align with an announcement on the future of the shielding programme. Given that the composition of the shielding cohort is likely to change significantly over the coming weeks, we don't recommend announcing support now, but rather pushing DHSC/ MHCLG for more data/ clarity on the future of the scheme.

You also asked for a table setting out what income support different groups received – please see this attached. Finally, CX asked about the feasibility of extending the SSP rebate scheme by removing the two week limit. Please see some bullets on this below, with thanks to HMRC colleagues.

Very happy to discuss if you have any questions, and many thanks to everybody who contributed to these.

NR

## **Operational Feasibility of extending the SSP rebate**

- You asked whether going live would limit your ability to extend the SSP rebate scheme if desired.
- If you decided to change the rebate so that businesses could claim for more than two weeks' worth of SSP, ۰ HMRC are confident they could deliver that change within a fortnight. The fortnight wait is due to required legislative and operational changes, but is not impacted by going live with the current policy on the 26 May.
- **Operational** Extending the eligibility period is likely to require further compliance procedures to protect the system from fraud, as currently the main lever for managing the fraud and error risk from the scheme is the capping of the refund to two weeks. HMRC's preference would be to keep an overall cap to the number of weeks, to minimise the Fraud and Error risk than increase to an unlimited period. You should note that the 2week delivery timescale does not take into account any redesign to the system which may be necessary to address the increased compliance risks.
- Legislation Further to operational changes to the rebate system, HMRC would be required to lay further ۲ secondary legislation to amend the maximum amount of claim on a per employee basis.

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