

Employers' Secretary, Naomi Cooke  
18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ  
Telephone 020 7187 7335  
e-mail: [firequeries@local.gov.uk](mailto:firequeries@local.gov.uk)

Employees' Secretary, Matt Wrack  
Bradley House, 68 Coombe Rd  
Kingston upon Thames KT2 7AE  
Telephone 020 8541 1765

## NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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To: **Chief Fire Officers**  
**Chief Executives/Clerks to Fire Authorities**  
**Chairs of Fire Authorities**  
**Directors of HR (Fire Authorities)**

**Members of the National Joint Council**

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21 February 2020

### CIRCULAR NJC/1/20

Dear Sir/Madam

#### **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS: COVID-19**

1. The situation in respect of the Coronavirus continues to evolve.
2. Sources of information include:
  - **England** - Government advice is being [updated](#) regularly and Public Health England is addressing common questions on its [blog](#). The Local Government Association has created a new [webpage](#) that collates useful information for councils and fire authorities including links to national advice, answers to common questions and campaign materials from PHE.
  - **Scotland** - [NHS Inform](#)
  - **Wales** – [Public Health Wales](#)
  - **Northern Ireland** – [Public Health Agency](#)
3. A UK-wide public information campaign has been launched to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services.
4. We also remind you of the provision set out in the 'Grey Book' at Section 5, Part B, paragraph 34, as follows:

*'34. In the case of contact with infectious or other diseases the employee should not stay away from duty if he or she feels well but should report the fact to the appropriate person in the fire and rescue authority. An employee who is prevented from attending work because of contact with an infectious disease shall be entitled to full sick pay and the period of absence on this account shall not be reckoned against the employee's entitlement to sick pay.'*
5. In the event that an employee is required to self-isolate or is placed in quarantine, the provision above should be applied.

Yours faithfully

**NAOMI COOKE**  
**MATT WRACK**  
**Joint Secretaries**