

Resolution Date: 14th March 2020
Resolution Title: The Price of Coronavirus

This Branch notes that:

The spread of coronavirus has resulted in an estimated 80,000 people infected globally, with around 2% fatalities. Governments in parts of Europe are now introducing various measures to control and delay its spread.

The virus is exposing decades of privatisation and spending cuts in health, education, local services and infrastructure, and attacks on benefits. Within the housing association sector, it is underlining the short-sightedness of policies designed to penalise workers when they become unwell for whatever reason, or have caring responsibilities.

This Branch believes that workers should not pay the price of coronavirus.

This Branch will therefore campaign for a greater protection of workers including:

- Full compensation for loss of pay from day one and applicable to all including those on zero-hours contracts, where workers are unable to attend work due to:
 - Time spent in self-isolation or recovery;
 - Travel disruption caused by closure of public transport systems; or
 - Closure of schools or care services affected by coronavirus.

- Workers in receipt of in-work benefits such as Universal Credit to be paid their benefits without sanction for being unable to work as normal;

- A greater flexibility of working patterns, for example allowing staff to work from home if the role is conducive to enable carers to manage caring responsibilities alongside work demands and reduce risk of cross-infection.