

This Tory Government needs to stop burying its head in the sand about the problems in social care – Barbara Keeley

Barbara Keeley MP, Labour's Shadow Social Care Minister, commenting

on the Government's decision to temporarily suspend HMRC enforcement action and waive historical penalties for sleep-in shifts, said:

"This announcement does little to help sort out the issue of pay for sleep-in shifts.

"Care providers still face a £400 million bill and care workers still have no idea when they will get the money they have rightfully earned. Delaying enforcement action for a few weeks does nothing to address the issue and is a dangerous and retrograde step that risks undermining the very principle of a statutory minimum wage. If an exemption is granted in this case, it will not be long before other employers start pleading poverty to get out of their duty to properly pay their workforce.

"This Tory Government needs to stop burying its head in the sand about the problems in social care and put the funding of social care on a long-term sustainable footing."