

The Rt Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Gillian Keegan MP.  
Department of Health and Social Care,  
39 Victoria Street,  
London,  
SW1H 0EU,

30 September 2021

Dear Secretary of State and Minister,

The Care Workers Union (CWU) would like to report to the government on the difficult situation facing care workers amidst the ongoing fuel crisis and ask the government to prioritise essential and 'key workers' for fuel supply. Care workers are 'key workers' at the frontline, as the pandemic brutally demonstrated where approximately a third of all deaths in the first wave of the pandemic occurred in care homes. Care workers help our elderly and people of all ages with disabilities live their lives with dignity.

The CWU has received the following representations from care providers and care workers on the impact of the fuel crisis:

- Closed petrol stations meaning planned activity/ visits are delayed.
- Limits on filling up mean that care staff may have to cut short visits or try their luck at another outlet elsewhere. There is no guarantee that they will be able to find fuel even by adopting this strategy.
- Agency staff, who may be coming from further away, are cancelling at short notice saying they do not have petrol to make the journey leaving services scrambling around for staff cover.
- Taxis are also cancelling planned pick-ups. Staff having to cover this is putting further pressure on them.
- In some places petrol station queues blocking roads affecting delivery to care homes, or through access by home care staff.
- Client anxiety about whether calls will happen – more calls to field by care providers.
- Isolated reports of price hiking.

We ask the government to take action to prioritise care workers and other key workers in fuel provision. Designating certain petrol stations for key workers only and banning price hikes are crucial measures.

Yours Faithfully,

The Care Workers Union