

Dr Jane Gate
Executive Director, AIRTO
By email

Chief Executive

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Dear Jane,

Thank you very much for your recent letter outlining your concerns regarding a lack of clarity in our recently published RIDDOR guidance.

As you will appreciate, the global Covid-19 pandemic is creating a very fast moving and dynamic situation for us to respond to.

Our current guidance is aimed at assisting “responsible persons” with duties under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013 to understand reporting requirements regarding work- related exposure to “coronavirus” (the commonly used term in cross- Government guidance to refer to the virus which causes Covid -19 but which you correctly refer to more specifically as SARS-COV- 2). Our guidance is aimed at ensuring all those who have responsibilities have a basic understanding of what they need to report either as a Dangerous Occurrence (under Regulation 7 and Schedule 2, paragraph 10) or as a disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent (under Regulation 9 (b)) or as a death as a result of occupational exposure to a biological agent under Regulation 6 (2) and has been written to achieve a plain English standard as required in all our guidance.

We appreciate that as the prevalence of coronavirus increases in the general population, it will be very difficult for employers to establish whether or not any infection in an individual was contracted as a result of their work. Therefore, diagnosed cases of COVID 19 are not reportable under RIDDOR unless there is reasonable evidence suggesting that a work- related exposure was the likely cause of the disease.

We are continually reviewing our guidance in response to feedback received. We will consider your comments, particularly in relation to what constitutes “reasonable evidence” and factors to be considered when assessing whether or not a death or disease was due to an occupational exposure to coronavirus, as part of our on-going review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Albon', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Albon

Chief Executive