

**DfE email to the NMA 14 April 2020 ( in follow up to email of 9 April and circulated on 9 April to NMA members)**

Dear Santha

The line we have issued is:

The distribution of newspapers is a key activity during the current pandemic. Distributors are concerned that their ability to ensure that papers are delivered is jeopardised by some local authorities that are refusing all applications for employment permits for young people of compulsory school age, and/or withdrawing existing permits.

It is for authorities to decide on individual cases, and safeguarding children's wellbeing is rightly their priority. They should, however, also take account of employers' measures to safeguard young workers and whether these are enough to address any safeguarding concerns, and decide case-by-case rather than impose a blanket ban. We hope that authorities and distributors can find ways for young workers to work in safe conditions.

This has gone to LAs who had contacted us, plus the Local Government Association. It should go as part of a longer email to all LAs later this week.

We cannot get involved in individual cases. If an LA believes the risk to health is such that a permit should not be issued, that is their decision to take, and we will not seek to influence their decision.

Regards

DfE