



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Helen Whately MP
Minister of State for Care*

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PO-1419816

Mrs Nadra Ahmed
Chair
Care Provider Alliance
By email to: nadra.ahmed@nationalcareassociation.org.uk

23 November 2022

Dear Mrs Ahmed,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 September, co-signed by leaders of a number of Care Provider Alliance member organisations, about mask-wearing for social care staff and care home visitors. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I would like to thank you for writing about this important issue. As Minister of State for Care, I look forward to working with you and your colleagues from the various member organisations of the Care Provider Alliance, as we address the challenges and opportunities ahead for adult social care.

I want to assure you that I am aware of the concerns that some in the adult social care sector have regarding the continued use of face masks and the differing approaches that are being taken across health and care, including in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are currently reviewing the use of face masks in adult social care and considering how best to advise the sector on this issue as we move into the winter period. I understand that officials in the department have contacted the Care Provider Alliance and other key stakeholders to ensure their opinions are reflected in this review.

I hope you will understand that I cannot make any judgement on this issue until the current review has been completed. I can assure you that this will take place as rapidly as possible, and that officials will keep you fully updated.

I would be grateful if you could share this reply with your co-signatories.

HELEN WHATELY