

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022



Rt. Hon. Thérèse Coffey MP  
Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your recent appointments on behalf of all our members we look forward to working with you to realise the ambitions of our governments' Social Care reform plans in the coming months and years' ahead.

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Care Provider Alliance, which represents the eleven main national associations of independent and voluntary adult social care providers in England, to recommend that the face mask policy for adult social care settings in England is brought in line with the Scottish policy.

Currently, in England, face masks should be worn by all care workers and encouraged for visitors in care settings and when providing care in people's own homes, irrespective of whether the person being cared for is known or suspected to have COVID-19 or not.

Due to a number of factors including high vaccination rates and other mitigations against COVID-19 in the social care sector, the recommendation that face masks are worn at all times has been removed in Scotland, as of 7 September. Now, masks and face coverings in social care may still be worn if recommended in certain situations, such as a local outbreak of COVID-19, or if staff deem it necessary. Staff and visitors remain free to wear one if they choose.

The [latest ONS data](#) shows a steady fall in BA.5 prevalence in the general population which is very encouraging. Our view is now that we are in a position where the extended use of masks and face coverings should be for particular situations and not the default position.

The harm of COVID-19 restrictions, particularly the face mask policy, is certainly shifting to a position where the harm is greater than the benefit. As was acknowledged within the change in Scottish policy, the impact masks and face coverings can have on health and mental wellbeing is significant.

As we provide care for large numbers of those living with dementia and other cognitive problems where non recognition of people is very acute. So we are acutely aware of how this policy affecting the well being of those we care for as well as the morale of the large staff group who we employ.

In our view, we strenuously ask you to recognise; **this is right time to move from routine face mask and face covering use, thereby enabling the sector to take a person-centred risk-based approach.**

We look forward to continuing to work closely with you for the benefit of the people we employ and all those for who we provide care for and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadra Khan". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line underneath the name.

Nadra Ahmed  
Chair, Care Provider Alliance  
E: Nadra.Ahmed@nationalcareassociation.org.uk

*Status: We believe this letter is in the public interest and as a consequence it could be released as a public document.*

## Care Provider Alliance

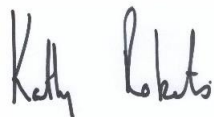
The Care Provider Alliance (CPA) was formed 10 years ago at the request of DHSC and brings together 11 National trade bodies representing circa 19,000 independent and voluntary adult social care providers in England.

There are no other organisations in the sector comparable in size or reach to the CPA, we represent > 70% of all social care delivery, and our members provide care and support to 1.3 million people through residential, domiciliary and community-based services, whether commissioned by local authorities, the NHS or privately purchased.

## CPA Member Associations



Ewan King  
Chief Executive  
Officer



Kathy Roberts,  
Chief Executive  
Officer



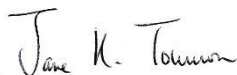
Michael Voges,  
Chief Executive  
Officer




Prof. Martin Green,  
Chief Executive  
Officer



Prof. Vic Rayner,  
Chief Executive  
Officer



Dr. Jane Townson,  
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Rhidian Hughes,  
Chief Executive  
Officer



Nadra Ahmed,  
Executive Chairman



Clive Parry,  
England Director

Melaine Weatherley,  
Chair

Ian Turner,  
Executive Chair

