



T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

[Redacted]

Your ref: [Redacted]  
Our ref: 202000037086  
21 May 2020

*Jeane M Hughes*

Thank you for getting in touch with the First Minister, regarding the standard of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance and specifications recommended by the Scottish Government. I am responding in my capacity as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

I am sorry to hear of your concerns regarding the standard of PPE recommended for use by health practitioners in Scotland. However, the requirements for the use of PPE, which are set out in the COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance published by Public Health England and adopted by Scotland, is underpinned by a scientific evidence base which includes a review of literature produced by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other organisations. This guidance is agreed by the Chief Medical Officers of the four UK nations.

WHO guidance is broadly aligned to UK-wide guidance, with a similar rationale in advocating the use of PPE in health and social care settings and requiring the correct use of PPE in the correct setting. However, in recognition of the fact that there is sustained transmission of COVID-19, the UK-wide guidance also includes additional considerations which are overarching of standard infection prevention and control precautions. Pertinent to health and social care staff in any setting, these additional considerations allow the care giver to decide on use of PPE based on their assessment of risk from the patient to themselves.

The safety of our essential frontline workforce is an absolute priority, and we are continuously looking to improve the supply and distribution of the protective equipment that is so vital in the fight against COVID-19. Please be assured that we continue to work tirelessly with NHS National Services Scotland, Health and Social Care Partnerships, the social care sector, and with colleagues in other UK nations to procure and distribute necessary supplies of the types and levels of PPE required to safeguard frontline health and social care workers.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020



The Scottish Government has a new dedicated email address for staff, MSPs or members of the public to raise specific supply issues.

On behalf of the Scottish Government, I would like to thank you for your dedication, commitment and important work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*My apologies for the delay in  
responding and kind regards*



**JEANE FREEMAN**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Accredited  
Until 2020

