



ROYAL COLLEGE
of PHYSICIANS
of EDINBURGH



ROYAL COLLEGE OF
PHYSICIANS AND
SURGEONS OF GLASGOW



THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS OF
EDINBURGH

Lord Deighton
Department of Health and Social Care

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Sent by email:

4 May 2020

Dear Lord Deighton,

COVID-19: supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE)

We are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as PPE 'Tsar'. You will of course have a vital role to play in ensuring that our health and care workers are protected through adequate supplies of high-grade PPE, during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Colleges which collectively represent 60,000 clinicians across the UK, including in England, we welcome your appointment and offer you our full support. Furthermore, we would welcome an early opportunity to discuss our Members' views on the situation regarding PPE in all parts of the UK.

You may be interested to note that as part of the UK Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties (the 'UK Academy'), we have regularly fed into discussions with the Chief Medical Officers for England and Scotland, regarding PPE. We have welcomed the [revised guidance on PPE](#), after lobbying the UK Government and devolved administrations, including the Scottish Government, to ensure that health and care workers have the protection they need to stay safe and remain on the frontline.

However, the provision of PPE remains an acute concern in some areas of the UK. Conversations with colleagues across the UK continue to tell the same story – most places are provided adequately, but some are not. We share the concerns of colleagues in the UK Academy about the [PPE re-use guidelines](#), and we believe that the procurement and provision of adequate new supplies is clearly preferred to re-use of PPE items only intended for single use.

Finally, we would urge transparency at UK national level regarding the stocks of PPE available, as well as an action plan outlining what PPE can be expected by primary, secondary and community care – and when healthcare workers in these sectors can expect to receive PPE.

We would be grateful for an early opportunity to discuss the matters above at a time and date of your convenience. In the meantime, we wish you the greatest success in your new role.

Kind regards,



Professor Andrew Elder
President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh



Professor Jackie Taylor
President, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow



Professor Michael Griffin OBE
President, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh