

16th April 2020

Helen Whately MP
Minister of State for Care
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



By Email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Minister for Care

Covid-19 - Social Care

Considering the recent reports regarding the increasing number of deaths in care homes, GMB is requesting an urgent meeting with yourself to discuss the concerns of our members and what can be done to protect these key workers within the Social Care Sector at this critical stage.

GMB members are reporting serious failings by employers who are still not providing the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Many care workers are blaming themselves for the deaths of their residents and are terrified of going to work as they believe that they are putting their vulnerable clients at risk.

GMB is deeply concerned about the failure and the delay to provide Covid-19 testing for the social care force and need to be reassured how testing will be rolled out speedily to all staff. There is clear evidence of the risk of death to the staff and residents, as well as there being serious absence in the number of carers in the sector, it is astonishing that more has not been done to support the sector during this crisis.

GMB hold some of the largest union membership in some of the biggest care sector providers and have been in weekly talks with BEIS, Cabinet Office and the Department of Health, yet we have struggled to get a dialogue started with you.

We hope you can rectify this urgently and agree to meet with us as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Harrison'.

Rachel Harrison
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