



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Carolyn Harris MP
Judith Cummins MP
Co-Chairs APPG on Beauty, Aesthetics & Wellbeing
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Dear Carolyn and Judith

Thank you for your email dated 23 March to the Secretary of State, enclosing letter from the APPG on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing, about COVID-19 and the risk to the beauty industry. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial portfolio.

The coronavirus outbreak is the biggest public health emergency in a generation. It calls for decisive action, at home and abroad, of the kind not normally seen in peacetime. This is why we are doing everything we can to tackle the pandemic and mitigate its impact. We are mobilising every part of Government to defend our people and our country. Businesses, our great universities and communities across the country are coming together to help. Our goal is clear, the overriding objective is to save lives, protect the vulnerable and support the NHS so it can help those who need it the most.

While the public have responded to our call to isolate or socially distance themselves, we now need to do more in order to save more lives, protect the vulnerable and support the NHS; we must now go even further and put in place further measures across the UK to reduce the spread of the virus. This is why the Government has ordered all non-essential businesses to close, including hair, beauty and nail salons. This is now clearly set out in the guidance, which was updated on 26 March:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance.

In this unprecedented time, we would urge employers to take socially responsible decisions and listen to the concerns of their workforce. Employers and employees should come to a pragmatic agreement about these arrangements. If individuals need advice, they should approach the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) for confidential advice. They can be contacted through its website at: www.acas.org.uk. Acas offers practical, independent and impartial help to employers, employees, workers and their representatives about a wide range of employment relations matters.

I hope the above is helpful, thank you for taking the time to write.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PAUL SCULLY MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets

Minister for London