



The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Minister of State
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

1st June 2020

Dear Minister,

Reopening of the Hair, Beauty and Wellness Industry

Thank you for your response to our letter about the need to support the hair, beauty, spa and wellness industry through the Covid-19 crisis and the reopening phase.

We are encouraged to hear that the Secretary of State and your officials have since spoken with members of the industry to seek their input in developing guidance for when and how businesses in the industry are able to reopen.

The APPG on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing has held a further industry-wide meeting to discuss progress made on these issues. We are concerned that some key groups have not been included within the discussions, including:

1. Mobile workers

While those representing mobile hair and beauty therapists who offer services in their homes and in the homes of their clients were included in Government discussions on guidance for working safely in people's homes in the early stages of lockdown, they have not, as we understand it, been included in the development of guidance for reopening the sector or guidance for in-home personal care and wellbeing workers.

Mobile working is a significant part of the industry giving self-employed practitioners, particularly women, the freedom and power to control their own working lives and support themselves and their families. We would urge you to also consult this group and ensure that mobile workers are considered in the guidance.

2. Spa and wellness facilities

While we are aware that the Government has had conversations with a few spa and wellness companies, it is concerning that the main spa and wellness industry associations have not been invited to be involved in the development of guidance.



Given spa and wellness services are offered on the high street, within retail businesses, within hotels, and at home, we feel it is essential that an industry representative is brought into the discussions as a priority to ensure this is reflected in the resulting guidance.

We also would like to take this opportunity to underline the importance that **the forthcoming guidance covers all aspects of the industry and is adequately detailed, leaving no room for ambiguity or interpretation**. Guidance must also cover what grades of PPE must be used for what treatments.

It is crucial that the wider industry moves as one as it is allowed to reopen, whether in salon or non-salon settings, and that no members are left behind.

Many stories have already emerged of underground hair and beauty treatments taking place during the lockdown against Government health and safety guidance. Clear rules and instructions that everyone must stick to are essential to protect from the emergence of a black market that will put public safety at risk and undercut already struggling responsible practitioners and businesses as they try to get back on their feet.

Clear and consistent guidance is also, of course, important to provide consumers with the confidence that they need to feel safe in seeking hair, beauty and wellness treatments again. Should the guidance be considered vague or open to interpretation, or if some parts of the industry are able to open before others, this seriously risks further harming consumer confidence in the industry.

Resorting consumer confidence is crucial to secure the long-term health of this great British industry and ensure it can thrive again.

We would welcome a meeting with you at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss these matters further.

Best regards,

Carolyn Harris MP and Judith Cummins MP

Co-Chairs of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing