



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Maria Caulfield MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Primary Care and Patient Safety*

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Dear Carolyn and Judith,

Thank you for your letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Patient safety remains a key priority for this Government. As my predecessor set out, we welcome the important contribution of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing. The APPG inquiry highlighted the huge range of non-surgical cosmetic procedures available, which vary in their level of complexity and invasiveness. The Government has carefully considered the findings of the report including the recommendation for a licensing system.

I am pleased to confirm that we have laid an amendment to the Health and Care Bill which would give the Secretary of State the power to introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures in England.

In recent years we have seen a growing prevalence and normalisation of invasive non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as botulinum toxin ("Botox") and dermal fillers. Although there is much good practice across the aesthetics industry, these treatments can have severe complications. As you point out, the current regulatory framework places few restrictions on who may perform aesthetic non-surgical treatments. There is a genuine patient safety risk if we do not act on this now.

As you will be aware, developments in technology mean that new treatments are continually emerging in the market. It is therefore vital to future-proof the legislation and enable the licensing scheme to adapt and respond to innovations in procedures and treatments.

The scope and detail of the licensing system – including the underpinning training and qualification framework, insurance and hygiene standards - will be subject to extensive stakeholder and consultation as well as the affirmative Parliamentary procedure.

Thank you once again for your letter and we will look forward to working with you as we take forward a licensing scheme..

Yours sincerely,

**MARIA CAULFIELD MP**

**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PRIMARY CARE**