



Royal College
of Physicians



The Royal College of
Emergency Medicine



Royal College
of Surgeons
of England

ADVANCING SURGICAL CARE



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Royal College of Anaesthetists

Lord Deighton
Department of Health and Social Care

24 April 2020

Dear Lord Deighton,

Congratulations on your appointment as the PPE 'tsar'. A role which will be critical to ensuring that NHS and social care staff are able to access all the PPE they need, whenever they need it. As Medical Royal Colleges we are the professional membership organisations representing over 166,000 members. As such we request an urgent meeting to discuss the ongoing challenges and potential solutions.

It will be no surprise to you that our members remain concerned about PPE availability and stocks. While some report improvements over the last few weeks, too many still say there are significant issues. Clinicians are facing the challenge of their lives and doing the very best for their patients. It saddens us that at this extraordinary time they are also having to worry about the fundamentals of personal safety, including when the next PPE consignment will arrive at their workplace and how long it will last.

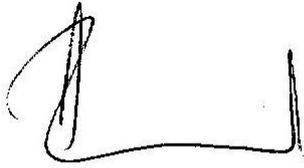
We know that procurement specialists across the NHS are working around the clock and we are grateful for all that they are doing. We hope that your new role will add impetus to this, so ensuring that no clinician is ever put in the impossible situation where they have to choose between protecting their own health, or that of their patients.

It's obvious that global supply chains are under considerable strain and that there will be challenges, this is every nation's nightmare. But it is no good for our members knowing that a shipment may arrive in five days' time, if they are only a matter of hours away from running out of equipment. Doctors, nurses and other health and social care professionals are used to managing the unexpected, but they can do that best when they are kept informed and communicated with honestly.

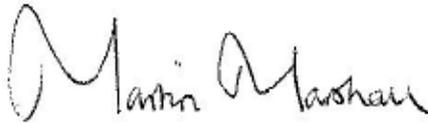
Just as clinicians have a duty of candour with patients and their families, the government must observe the same principle with the profession. We encourage you to be open and frank in your new role about the challenges you face, while doing everything possible to get the supplies to where they are needed.

We look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Andrew Goddard
President
Royal College of Physicians



Professor Martin Marshall
Chair
Royal College of General Practitioners



Professor Derek Alderson
President
Royal College of Surgeons



Professor Ravi Mahajan
President
Royal College of Anaesthetists



Dr Katherine Henderson
President
Royal College of Emergency Medicine



Professor Russell Viner
President
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child
Health