



Supporting occupational health  
and wellbeing professionals

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6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Via email [sarah.albon@hse.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.albon@hse.gov.uk)

Dear Sarah,

Like many other organisations, SOM has been concerned about the quality and quantity of PPE supplied to frontline workers in the Health and Social Care Sector over the past month. We welcome the new PPE guidelines that were published last week as a significant step forward. However, these should only be regarded as a minimum and employers should strive to further reduce exposure. The use of PPE must be supported by training, fit testing and management of compliance.

SOM is also pleased that dangerous occurrences and likely work caused fatalities for Covid-19 are now RIDDOR reportable. However, it is necessary that all potential work caused fatalities are investigated and any break down of exposure control identified. This will allow correction and dissemination of learning.

We have heard NHS trust Chief Executives stating that more work-related deaths are inevitable. We do not believe this to be the case, with proper application of controls no health care workers should die of work acquired disease. We should have a target of Zero Work Caused Fatalities in this pandemic.

The SOM stands ready to work with the HSE to both assist and supervise in the correct use of PPE, and support HSE investigation of potential work caused fatalities. We very much appreciate our good working relationship with Dr Andrew Curran, who supported a research synthesis on the value of occupational health research and are planning a joint event next year for occupational health nurses with your events team.

All best wishes

Dr Will Ponsonby  
**President**

Cc Dr Andrew Curran