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Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By Email.

19 January 2021

Dear Lewis

I am writing to update the Committee on the extension of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) support arrangements for primary care and social care providers.

Currently, primary care providers in General Medical Services, General Dental Services, Community Pharmacy and Community Optometry receive regular allocations of PPE free of charge to support NHS activity. Social care providers can claim back PPE costs over and above their usual amounts due to the pandemic. In addition, social care providers can access local PPE Hubs for emergency PPE supply if their existing supply routes fail. This support is available to social care providers across the sector, including unpaid carers and personal assistants.

The current arrangements have worked well in maintaining stable and secure PPE supplies to these vital sectors. The arrangements were due to expire on 31 March 2021 and I am pleased to confirm that they will now be extended until 30 June 2021. This extension of the current support arrangements will provide reassurance to primary and social care providers at this critical stage of the pandemic.

I hope you find this update helpful.

JEANE FREEMAN

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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