

**PE1841/H**

Cross Party Group on Dementia submission of 9 February 2021

I am writing, as Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Dementia, on behalf of Group members, in support of Care Home Relatives Scotland's petition that care homes must allow a designated carer to visit their loved ones.

The Cross Party Group on Dementia have been meeting virtually throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and many members have shared their emotional stories of the negative impact of not being able to have meaningful contact with relatives living in care homes. While we all know that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone, it has been clear from our discussions that those living in care homes and their families have been disproportionately affected by the public health restriction to the detriment of the mental health and wellbeing of those living in care homes caused by the social isolation.

The members of the Cross Party Group on Dementia agree that carers should be regarded as equal partners in care, and that designated carers should be allowed to be with their loved one so that they can provide support and comfort and share meaningful time and contact. Allowing access to care homes is more than visiting, family members can provide necessary and essential care to support both care home residents and staff members as well as providing much needed social interaction. This is an issue which has a large amount of public support, as evidenced by the fact over 90,000 people have signed an online petition to support this campaign on the [change.org](https://www.change.org) website.

We support the petition's call on the Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to allow a designated visitor into care homes to support loved ones and will continue to do all we can to support those campaigning on behalf of Care Home Relatives Scotland in allowing carers access to their loved ones.