

PE1841/RR

Petitioner submission of 15 March 2021

4th March 2020 was the last time I spent any meaningful time with my relative in a care home.

In that year I stared at them through a window, they didn't know I was there.

In that year I stared and shouted at them outside 2metres apart where they slumped in their wheelchair and we were supervised, they didn't know I was there.

In that year I have been in their room 3 times for 30mins each and held their hand where I hope they knew it was me that was there, but I no longer know if they know who I am anymore.

In that year they have been isolated in their room on their own in a world where no-one knows how they are feeling or what they are thinking. (My usual statement of thanking the amazing staff in what they do for them, I never want to take away from that).

In that year I have taken two distressing phone calls from doctors saying to expect the worst and prepare for our goodbyes, (once from Covid, once non covid) even then they were never allowed to see the bare minimum of their immediate family, choices had to be made.

In that year how can anyone argue that they will not have been affected by the lack of family stimulation and love we can offer them.

In that year they didn't get a Christmas Day bubble, summer relaxation meet ups or even people visiting them in a safe manner in their own wee room which is their home. In that year their rights have been stripped. I 100% believe their life would be different if they were living in the community.

So much focus on keeping people like my relative safe but who knows at what detrimental effect. Dementia has no cure or treatment so that's one whole year we have lost to make memories with them and help keep them with us a little longer but instead will forever be remembered as living hell.

No-one has ever been able to give us and families alike across the country a definitive answer to why a designated visitor could not have been granted back in Summer 2020 to enter the care home the same way staff did....all we get is it is to keep everyone safe. I've said it before and I'll say it again - if that was the case we wouldn't have so many care home deaths, covid and non covid related, across the country.

This is why I feel so strongly that petition PE01841 needs to be given the green light and if nothing can be done this side of an election, I ask for it to be left in the legacy papers for the future parliament.