

31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Mr John Barwick - Interim Chief Executive & Registrar  
Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC)  
184-186 Kennington Park Road  
London  
SE11 4BU



By Email: [ftp@hcpc-uk.org](mailto:ftp@hcpc-uk.org)

Dear Mr Barwick,

**Re: Covid-19 Concerns**

We write on behalf of GMB members who are registered with the HCPC.

We are fully aware that the Coronavirus Pandemic (Covid-19) is an international crisis but it is important for us to highlight to you some of the concerns our members have during this time.

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

There have been and still are some serious issues with the supply, access to and quality of PPE. These concerns have been raised with Public Health England (PHE), the National Ambulance Strategic Partnership Forum (NASPF), and local employers. But we still receive reports that some staff are having moral pressure applied to them to treat patients or carry out tasks without the correct PPE. Our members are being forced to work without adequate PPE and as a result they are fearful for their own health and the health of their families.

- **Extreme Pressures**

Extreme pressures of the job have been exacerbated by inconsistent application and ever changing guidance to be followed, especially by our members working in the ambulance service.

Students, volunteers and people from other occupations assisting in the job have led to a fear that usual professional standards may not have been able to be met.

Covid-19 related staff absences, as well as the fear of catching the virus has caused extreme anxieties and stress for our members, especially those working in the ambulance service, specifically Paramedics.

- **Covid-19 Testing**

The lack of testing being available to staff have left many vulnerable and at risk.

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This Government failed to properly prepare for this pandemic and our key workers in health have been the ones to pay the price. As their trade union it is our duty to protect them.

We are completely opposed to any drop in standards in the NHS as a result of this failure and our members are finding that they are unable to practice safely.

We have reports of our members facing threats from management and the prospect of disciplinary hearings and losing their careers if they don't comply with instructions given by managers, that put themselves or their patients at risk. They are being instructed that they cannot speak publicly about the risks they face on a daily basis.

We are deeply concerned about the growing death toll amongst frontline NHS staff and we are calling on you, to act with compassion and issue a statement of support from the HCPC to be sent to GMB Union which we would be willing to publish and share with our members.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Harrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Harrison  
GMB National officer

[Rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk)