



GMB Union
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12/05/2020

**Nursing and Midwifery Council
6th Floor, 2 Stratford Place
Montfichet Rd
London, E20 1EJ
For the Attn. Andrea Sutcliffe, Chief Executive & Registrar**

Dear Ms Sutcliffe,

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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

We are fully aware that the coronavirus pandemic is an international crisis, but it is important for us to highlight to you that there are serious issues with the supply of Personal Protective Equipment in the NHS. Our members are facing the consequences of lack of testing, and the failure of this Government to have properly prepared for the coronavirus pandemic, and as a Trade Union our first duty is to protect them.

We are completely opposed to any drop in standards in the NHS as a result of this failure, as our members are now finding that they are unable to practice safely. We are also hearing that NHS staff are having moral pressure applied to them to treat patients, or carry out tasks without the correct PPE or testing. 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. They are facing threats from management, the prospect of disciplinary hearings, and potentially losing their careers if they don't comply with instructions given by Managers, that put them 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. We are therefore seeking a statement of support from the NMC to be sent to GMB Union which we would be willing to publish and share with our members.

Yours sincerely,
Rachel Harrison

**Rachel Harrison
National Officer**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen O'Connor', written over a horizontal line.

**Helen O'Connor
Regional Organiser**