



# Department of Health & Social Care

31 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I can confirm that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have formally extended the provision of free COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) until 31 March 2022.

As part of a review of the provision of free COVID-19 PPE in April 2021, DHSC have considered the likely trajectory of the pandemic, the roll-out of the national vaccination programme and had engaged with a broad range of stakeholders, including wholesalers, to make an informed balanced decision with regards to the extension of free PPE.

DHSC has a duty to continue the promotion in England of a comprehensive health service and in the current environment, HM Government must prioritise the health and safety of individuals in the social and primary care sectors.

DHSC equally values the concerns of the wholesaler and as such will be looking at implementing a range of measures until March 2022 to support your business, taking on board your feedback.

We have seen a monumental change in the way that PPE has been secured and supplied across the country. We have learnt a great deal from this experience and want to build on these learnings to transition to a future model that is both resilient and proportionate.

DHSC are currently analysing options for the future distribution of PPE beyond March 2022 and such options are focused on ensuring a strong supply of PPE for both health and social care staff taking into consideration a broad range of stakeholders, including all wholesalers.

We understand that you will be concerned by this decision and we would encourage you to continue working with officials across the Department to discuss your individual concerns. We look forward to continuing our constructive conversations with you over the coming weeks.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your important contribution to protecting front line workers and others from the global pandemic and in particular its PPE distribution. The Wholesale PPE Channel has been a crucial component of our overall response to COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Howitt

Director of PPE Policy and Strategy,

Department of Health and Social Care