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Robert Donald (Chair, Scottish Council)
David McColl (Chair, Scottish Dental Practice
Committee)
Graham Smith (Chair, Scottish Public Dental Service
Committee)
Manar Elkhazindar (Lead, Scottish Hospital
Dentists Reference Group)

29 September 2020

Dear Mr Donald, Mr McColl, Mr Smith, Ms Elkhazindar,

Thank you for your joint letter clarifying the BDA's position on FFP3 facemasks.

As you may be aware we have worked with NHS Scotland procurement teams to supply 15 million pieces of PPE and 850,000 FFP3 respirators to support Scotland's dental community. This has been a huge undertaking, a logistically challenging exercise, in order to meet the significant challenge of this very difficult set of circumstances.

I was therefore disappointed in the regrettable tone of your press release on this matter. I am also keenly aware of distress and increased levels of anxiety that were avoidably caused to some dental teams, in particular the PDS, through that communication from you.

We remain assured that the FFP3 masks are safe to use in a dental environment and have been widely used across the NHS during the pandemic, including within the Urgent Dental Care Centres. The 3M 1863 model remains the most widely distributed FFP3 respirator across the Scottish healthcare landscape. Each month, around 140,000 1863 FFP3 masks are supplied to support all areas of our NHS, being used in critical areas such as emergency and acute care, and by frontline staff every day.

When the new supply chain replaces the current PPE that has been provided through the NHS, then dentists will transfer across to new stock.



Joe FitzPatrick