



# Janet Finch-Saunders AC/AM

Aelod Cynulliad dros Aberconwy

Assembly Member for Aberconwy



Vaughan Gething AM,  
Minister for Health and Social Services,  
Welsh Government,  
*By Email*

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27 March 2020

**URGENT**

**Re: Personal Protective Equipment**

National Assembly for Wales,  
Cardiff Bay,  
CF99 1NA.

[Janet.Finch-Saunders@Assembly.Wales](mailto:Janet.Finch-Saunders@Assembly.Wales)

Dear Minister, Vaughan,

I hope that this letter finds you well during this extremely worrying time. As I write Wales has seen 28 deaths and 741 confirmed cases of coronavirus. The threat seems to be increasing, and I believe that we are united in wanting to ensure that we are doing everything within our power to help protect frontline health and social care staff. If we do not look after all of them, it is a real possibility that there might not be enough staff to look after our constituents.

Please be assured that I appreciate the significant pressure you and the Welsh Government are under to continue to respond promptly to this ever evolving crisis. In fact, I have endeavoured to be constructive in all my plenary contributions and Written Assembly Questions relating to the matter: highlighting areas whether there may, unintentionally, be gaps in support. It follows that I would be grateful if you could urgently address the following questions:

- **Will you consider putting a team of officials together and task them to contact every social care provider in Wales to establish their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirement?**
- **What health and safety guidance has he provided to everyone working in the social care sector, to include the exact specifications of the PPE required?**
- **How is the PPE guidance being disseminated?**
- **How often is the PPE guidance being updated as the crisis evolves?**
- **What support are you providing to those working in the social care sector as regards access to PEE?**
- **Will you consider creating a clear online campaign stating how care providers are to contact the Welsh Government Emergency Co-ordination Centre?**

Whilst I have welcomed your move to improve access to PPE this week, and that you have acknowledged continuing issues with the provision of PPE, I am sorry to inform you that the situation has reached crisis point in the social care sector.

[Cont...]

Mi wnaff Janet Finch-Saunders cadw unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn gwbl gyfrinachol, ac fel arfer mi fydd rhaid iddi rannu'r wybodaeth 'efo aelodau o staff i'w galluogi nhw i ddelfio 'efo'r awdurdodau perthnasol er mwyn eich helpu a'chi cynorthwyo chi. Efallai mi fydd angen i rywun ysgrifennu atoch er mwyn darparu'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o bwys. Gadwch wybod i ni os nad oes diddordeb gennych mewn cael eich cysylltu at y diben hwn.

Janet Finch-Saunders will treat in confidence any personal information which you may pass on to her, and she will normally allow her staff to see it, so that they can consult with relevant authorities in order to help and advise you. We may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.

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[Cont...]

Over the last twelve hours I have had numerous individuals from across Wales working in the social care sector respond to my call for them to let me know if they are unable to obtain the appropriate PPE required. For example, there are care homes which require hundreds of boxes of fifty masks to protect staff for around one week's time; mental health units which are unable to acquire masks and eye masks; and situations where some social care staff, out of fear of contracting the virus, may start refusing to undertake their tasks.

Given the above, I hope that you will consider my questions as a matter of urgency, and note that you are welcome to ask me for assistance in the effort to reach out to the social care sector, should this be of benefit to the Welsh Government expediting PPE support.

Yours sincerely,

**Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC**

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**Welsh  
Conservatives**