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Lesley Blair

Via email: lesley.blair@babtac.com

Our ref: 202000089978
1 October 2020

Dear Lesley,

Thank you for your email of 22 September 2020 which was addressed to the First Minister. Your correspondence has been passed to me to respond to as Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills.

I can confirm that Scottish Government guidance, which is based on the latest public health advice, is that face coverings should be kept on for all close contact services and treatments including those in the high risk area. If a treatment cannot be carried out, in its entirety, with a face covering in place for both client and beautician, then it should not be offered. The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations state that face covering are required in any building, room or other premises used for the retail sale or hire of goods or services. That being said I can confirm that your advice to the industry that clients masks cannot be removed is correct. You may wish to refer to the following [guidance](#) for more information.

You will be aware that on Tuesday 22 September the First Minister addressed parliament and announced the introduction of additional restrictions to combat the recent increase in Covid-19 positive cases. These latest measures indicate that there is still a considerable risk to public health and, as a consequence, there are no plans to relax the current restrictions on wearing face coverings in salons and shops.

The Scottish Government is fully aware of the importance of the beauty sector, not only to the economy but also to the health and wellbeing of the people of Scotland. I do not want the restrictions to remain in place any longer than absolutely necessary. This is an evolving situation so it is not possible at this time to speculate as to when the current guidance will change. This position is being closely monitored and any change will be notified on the Scottish Government's [website](#).

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I recognise that not being able to offer certain treatments will be significantly impacting on the income of many within the beauty industry and I pass on my thanks to them all for adhering to the current guidance as I know this comes at a cost. Not only are they helping to control the virus but they are contributing to the collective effort of helping to save lives. We must now come together to ensure that the industry as a whole is educated on the importance of compliance and I would like to put on record my thanks to you for raising this important issue with me and for pursuing clarity on the guidance to ensure the industry is operating as safely as possible.

I hope I have been able to address your concerns but please do not hesitate to get in touch if further information is required.



JAMIE HEPBURN

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