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THE PRIME MINISTER

13 May 2020

Dear Sir Keir

Thank you for your letter about our exchanges earlier this afternoon at Prime Minister's Questions.

I am disappointed that in the House today you chose to quote Public Health England advice selectively and misleadingly, and I stand by my comments. You neglected to provide the critical context at the start of the guidance.

As you are no doubt aware, the Public Health England advice, published on 25 February 2020, states:

'This guidance is intended for the current position in the UK where there is currently no transmission of COVID-19 in the community. It is therefore very unlikely that anyone receiving care in a care home or the community will become infected. This is the latest information and will be updated shortly.'

I would remind you of the commitment you made, when you became Leader of the Opposition, to work constructively with the Government in the face of this unprecedented pandemic. The public expect us to work together.

As I have demonstrated through repeated engagement and consultation with opposition parties in recent months, I have sought to build the maximum political consensus behind our response to Coronavirus. I hope it remains your position to pursue that same consensus.

This Government will continue to do whatever it takes to support social care workers, and residents of care homes, through this crisis.

The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer KCB QC MP