



Supporting the hair, beauty  
and barbering industries

Diane Dodds MLA MSP  
Minister for the Economy  
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17 June 2020

Dear Minister Dodds

Further to my letter of 11 June, I am writing to stress the urgent need for the Northern Ireland Executive to publish formal guidance regarding close proximity services.

As you will know, the National Hair & Beauty Federation has been proactive in communicating the latest advice and information from Central Government and the devolved nations to our members and the wider industry.

We have made continued attempts to provide technical advice in regards to Northern Ireland's own guidance as a significant contributor to England's draft guidelines on 'Working Safely Guidance - Close Contact Services including Hair and Beauty'.

There is growing frustration at the continued delay in publishing guidelines, preventing hair salons, beauty salons and barbershops from being able to fully prepare their businesses, staff and clients for reopening.

As previously mentioned, I have written to you previously about the urgent need for guidance on PPE in particular. Salons and barbershops have been unable to trade for months, so if they are to make a financial investment in PPE, they need to be confident that they are buying the right materials and they need sufficient time to source supplies.

We are aware that the next review of moving to the next stage of recovery in Northern Ireland is imminent. I would stress that businesses need adequate time - ideally a minimum of two weeks - to redesign their premises, train staff, ensure they have suitable PPE, communicate with clients regarding operational changes, implement adequate hygiene standards, and come to terms with the changes necessary to ensure the safety of themselves and their clients.

We therefore urge you to publish the guidance without any further delay. We are available to provide any support necessary in order to ensure this outcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Victoria Brownlie'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'V' and 'B'.

Victoria Brownlie  
Director of Policy and Public Affairs  
National Hair & Beauty Federation