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XXXX October 2020

Dear **insert MP or Councillor name**,

**Re: Potential lockdown of the personal care sector, including hair and beauty salons, and spas**

My name is [x], I am a local constituent and I [work/own/operate x business/am a self-employed x]. I am writing following the Prime Minister's recent announcement regarding the revised 3-Tier system, and the possibility of future closures to the personal care sector in **insert constituency here**.

I am writing to provide you with more detail on the measures **insert name of business** has put in place during this crisis to maintain public and staff safety, and bring assurance that they are not contributing to increased coronavirus cases in your area.

Our representing trade body, the UK Spa Association has worked openly alongside fellow beauty organisations to support the department of business, energy and industrial strategy in the development of robust guidelines for the beauty, spa and wellness sector to ensure the industry reopened in a COVID secure way.

We are operating under the highly prescriptive close contact services guidance, in turn promoting public and staff safety.

**Spas are Covid Safe and Semi-Clinical Environments.** Arguably we were a sector already operating in semi-clinical, highly controlled environments pre-lockdown, with rigorous hygiene practices, frequent hand washing and widespread use of PPE as standard practice. We already had increased hygiene and safety standards when compared with most other industries, yet we've suffered some of the greatest restrictions.

**Examples**

To date, we have not been contacted via NHS test and trace regarding a possible outbreak on our premises.

We have accounted for zero COVID-19 cases since our reopening in (insert reopening month).

A very small number of our team have been contacted by the various tracing initiatives following a customer contact, in some cases but not all, the therapist has been advised to self-isolate but none have tested positive.

There have been no instances where our spa operation has had to close or isolate a larger portion of the team following contact from NHS test and trace.

The UKSA believes this demonstrates that the reopening of personal care services such as those within beauty, spa and wellness has not contributed to the current rise in Coronavirus cases.

This is supported by wider evidence from the UK's 'Weekly Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) surveillance report' showing track and trace reports from 'personal services' as one of the least prevalent areas.

Additionally the NI Department of Health report on 24th September also highlighted that the closure of close-contact personal services (hairdressing, beauty therapy etc.) would only potentially reduce the rate of transmission by “up to 0.05” with evidence suggesting that in these premises “masks were effective at stopping transmission” and “many places are already careful with hygiene”.

**The Devastating Impact to Economic and Public Wellbeing.** This economically valuable business has been hit hard by the pandemic, with many employees lost and more still in jeopardy. Further unnecessary closure will cause irreversible damage to the public perception and reputation of the safety of our business, albeit with no justification what-so-ever.

The extended uncertainty around further lockdowns and the new Covid alert levels has caused heightened anxiety on the long-term future of our business and the **inset number of staff** jobs it supports.

As you will have seen, in the very high alert level areas, the closure of “personal care and close contact services” are included amongst the additional interventions that local authorities, in consultation with government, could agree to take to help drive down transmission levels.

We therefore implore you **to continue to allow / to support** providers of personal care services in **add constituency here** to remain operational.

As we saw during the national lockdown, the beauty, spa and wellness sector has a significant role to play in maintaining the overall health and wellbeing of the public. We must consider the contribution to personal wellbeing and the impact on our community, who would again be left without this support for their social, physical and mental health.

As **inset job role and business name here** I am writing to you today to ask for your support at local level and to implore you, to allow us and other related businesses across the spa and beauty sector in **inset constituency here** to remain open in the responsible and COVID secure way in which they have been operating. I urge you to champion the contribution to personal wellbeing which our sector affords to the local community.

It is absolutely essential that services such as ours remain operational to support the mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of the general public through this crisis.

I would welcome a meeting with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss my concerns and demonstrate our COVID secure operation in a bid to secure your support, as my local **MP / Councillor**. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

**Insert Signature (optional)**

**Insert Name and Postcode**

Supported by the UK Spa Association

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