



Joint Committee on Human Rights

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From Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP, Chair

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

By email.

28 July 2020

Dear Matt,

The Government is of course making it a top priority to protect lives in the Covid pandemic. The right to life (Article 2 ECHR) has both substantive elements that require specific action be taken by the government to protect life and procedural elements that require action to investigate and learn lessons from deaths so as to prevent future unnecessary deaths.

The pressing need for now is to ensure that we learn, as a country, any lessons from the deaths from Covid to date. We must then incorporate that learning as swiftly as possible into our response to Covid moving forward and in particular to help us prepare for any second (or third) wave of the outbreak.

I would be grateful if you could inform the Committee what actions you are taking to fulfil the procedural and investigative requirements of Article 2 ECHR to investigate and learn lessons from deaths which have occurred during the Covid-19 outbreak, and in particular what steps you are taking to learn lessons to prevent future unnecessary deaths.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP

Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights