

Written evidence from Anonymous (HCS0051)

I am writing to present evidence to the committee regarding my mother's situation [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Committee is interested to hear the responses to the following questions:

- **What human rights issues need to be addressed in care settings in England, beyond the immediate concerns arising from the Covid-19 pandemic?**

Mum has been denied immediate contact with family and friends for much of the past 18 months. Last winter the closest one could get to mum was sitting outside a window to see her. My dad died last summer, the restrictions kept him separated from mum for almost all of their final year of their 49 year marriage.

Mum's part of the residential home is almost perpetually in lockdown because of somebody having a positive test - nobody ill, but the continual testing always brings up another reason to keep the residents separated from their loved ones. It is heart-breaking to see mum becoming resigned that she will spend her final days cocooned away from the outside world ... because it's for her own good.

- **How effective are providers at respecting the human rights of people under their care?**

I understand that their hands are tied. There is the common bureaucratic morality - referring to doing the greater good, which means something that can be shown on a spreadsheet. Happiness, mental well-being and personal freedoms have been sacrificed on the altar of statistics.

Although the frontline staff in mum's home do the best they can under the circumstances, they continue to suffer greatly in the conflict between moral duty regarding what is best for the people in their care and the rules that they are obliged to follow.

- **How effective are regulators in protecting residents from human rights breaches and in supporting patients and residents who make complaints about their care provider?**

- **What lessons need to be learned from the pandemic to prevent breaches of human rights legislation in future?**

Individual sovereignty needs to be respected. The right for people to choose, risks cannot be reduced to zero and care home residents are there for their final days. Taking reasonable safety precautions should not include destroying mental health and sucking the happiness out of the end of somebody's life.

Another aspect that has directly affected mum's care has been the exodus of staff due to the obligations placed on them. People who have done a fantastic job, loved by the residents and have dealt magnificently with the challenges of the past couple of years - now lost to the profession

Once again, I do not blame the care home staff, they are doing the best that they can for the residents while observing the draconian rulings reached by PHE and the local IPC team from the NHS.

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