

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Dear Secretary of State

We are writing from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) and the Federation of Surgical Specialty Associations (FSSA) to ask that you consider again introducing statutory regulation for surgical care practitioners (SCPs).

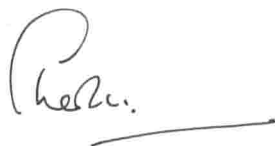
We are aware that your Department have already consulted and published on this (*"The regulation of medical associate professions in the UK", 17 February 2019*), but as the main surgical bodies in the UK we are concerned of the continued risk to patient safety posed by SCPs practicing outside the scope of their original regulatory body. This is particularly concerning given the plans to introduce statutory regulation for physician associates (PAs) and physician assistants in anaesthesia (PAAs)

As surgical bodies, we recognise the very many benefits to patients a multi-disciplinary team approach to surgery. SCPs are a fundamental part of this, but their fundamental role in delivering surgical care goes beyond the scope of Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) that currently regulate them.

Moreover, their clinical and educational supervisors are more likely to be consultant surgeons than senior nurses, so regulation needs to both reflect the reality of the surgical environment as well as need to have consistency in education, training and standards setting. By extending statutory regulation to SCPs, a register can also be created to enable Trusts to better understand their workforce, the capacity and skills available and to monitor standards.

We therefore ask you to reconsider your previous decision.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Charlie Auld
Chair, Faculty of Perioperative Care



Mr Nigel Mercer
President, Federation of Surgical Specialty
Associations