

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

12 June 2020

Dear Matt,

I am writing to express our serious concern at reports that 69 pages covering seven recommendations for change were removed from last week's PHE's report on inequalities and disparities in the impact of COVID-19 on certain groups. A clear response is needed as to why these pages and important recommendations were omitted from publication, especially when it is so critical that action is taken to save lives now and reduce race inequalities.

The BMA called for this review and contributed our views to it, and we were extremely disappointed that the points raised in our submission were not addressed in the report published on 2nd June. It now appears that pages addressing these and the contributions from other stakeholders may have been removed from the final report.

The outcome of the review should have been clear recommendations for action to tackle the disturbing reality that the virus is causing disproportionate serious illness and deaths in the BAME community. This aim was explicit in the terms of reference (6th bullet point), yet on publication the report was completely silent on any recommendations and amounted in effect to a statistical analysis which to a large degree reiterated information we already knew.

It is vital that these missing pages and recommendations are now formally published, without any further delay, and for there to be an explanation for this serious omission. We also need transparency and clarity on urgent next steps to protect our BAME workforce and community from further harm.

With best wishes,

Personal Data

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BMA Council Chair

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