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**From:** Donna Kinnair [Donna.Kinnair@rcn.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 13/04/2020 19:57:38  
**To:** CHIEFNURSINGOFFICER, England (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) [/o=MAIL/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=380fd91a8d744c218306034ed8a62b1f-england.chiefnursin]  
**Subject:** PPE Private and Confidential

12/4/2020

Dear Ruth

Thank you for our discussion this morning. I just want to confirm my discussion with you that RCN ( and you as our CNO) would not support sending nurses or health care assistants to look after patients without the appropriate PPE equipment as determined by the WHO guidance and the recent guidance that we supported that Public Health England issued on 10 April 2020 . Whilst we recognise that PPE gowns are in short supply with the possibility of us running out, our stance would be that sending nurses to look after patients without appropriate personal protection is a failure of our duty of care to them as individuals and in breach of health and safety legislation. It is also not consistent with WHO guidance. We would be concerned if the NMC were to imply in the CODE a duty to put patient safety above the safety of the nurse or healthcare worker because we do not believe that contrary to Common law they can imply a duty to rescue.

Our preference as an organisation is the same as yours that we try harder to source adequate amount of gowns so that nurses can deliver care and treatment with adequate personal protection equipment.

I recognise from our discussion that this summary represents your stance and look forward to supporting you.

Best wishes

Donna

**Dame Donna Kinnair**

**Chief Executive & General Secretary**

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