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**From:** PANDIT, Ninjeri (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) [ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net]  
**Sent:** 30/03/2020 18:24:05  
**To:** psmatthancock [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=8dddc7f87798480280e3a7aa57cb8d62-psmatthanco]; LEAVERS, Barnabas (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) [barnabas.leavers@nhs.net]  
**CC:** Special Advisers [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=808cc93a348845b8acd96dd48da73bc1-specialadvi]; Price, Natasha [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ff9661092c5453aa67b231e819b9653-NPrice4]  
**Subject:** RE: Query regarding surgery postponement  
**Flag:** Follow up

NR

We have already issued a letter to trusts over the weekend. Here it is:  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/advice-to-trusts-on-maintaining-cancer-treatment-during-the-covid-19-response/>. This follows guidance we have already issued to the system and in the letter that Simon and Amanda sent out to the system on 17 March with clear instructions about COVID-19 preparations.

Will revert on Quad next week once I've spoken with Natasha.

Sure, get comms to talk to one another about your last point.

Thanks,

Nin

Ninjeri Pandit  
Director  
Office of the NHS Chairs, CEO and COO  
NHS England  
I&S  
[ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net](mailto:ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net)

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**From:** psmatthancock <psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 30 March 2020 15:20  
**To:** PANDIT, Ninjeri (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) <ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net>; LEAVERS, Barnabas (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) <barnabas.leavers@nhs.net>  
**Cc:** Special Advisers <specialadvisers@dhsc.gov.uk>; Price, Natasha <Natasha.Price@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Query regarding surgery postponement

Hi Nin, Barny,

Related to the below, SofS has three concerns:

1. Do we need to clarify the position on urgent cancer treatment and other urgent therapies. There have been a further two cases of people having cancer surgery stopped – while they're not urgent surgery in the sense of a matter of days, it probably could not be deferred several weeks. Do we need to issue any further guidance to trusts on this? Agree

that a joined up comms response would be helpful, but if there are a significant number of these cases, we may need to do more.

2. SofS would like to begin thinking about the plan for restarting non-Covid care, as and when we see a reduction in workforce / ICU pressures etc. Are there particular cancelled ops etc. that we would want to prioritise to be brought 'back online'? – **perhaps Simon and SofS could have an initial discussion at Quad next week?**

3. On getting people to minimise risks that might bring them to A&E: he has been contacted by a clinical director concerned that they are still seeing people coming to A&E with recreational activity-related injuries, which are creating a pressure on A&E. Is there something we can do to get people to think about risk and reduce the numbers of injuries?  
**Are you happy for us to put comms colleagues back in touch?**

Let me know and happy to discuss.  
Thanks very much,

NR

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**From:** PANDIT, Ninjeri (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) <[ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net](mailto:ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net)>

**Sent:** 28 March 2020 14:22

**To:** psmatthancock <[psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk)>; ROBERTS, Adam (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) <[adam.roberts2@nhs.net](mailto:adam.roberts2@nhs.net)>

**Subject:** RE: Query regarding surgery postponement

NR – Simon set out the policy at yesterday's press conference.

We are clear that no urgent cancer operations should be cancelled. Individual clinicians and patients will discuss what's most appropriate given the risk of increased infection. Some areas are reconfiguring their urgent cancer services (e.g. Marsden in London).

Your press team can link in with ours on the lines on this.

Nin

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**From:** psmatthancock <[psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 28 March 2020 14:14

**To:** ROBERTS, Adam (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) <[adam.roberts2@nhs.net](mailto:adam.roberts2@nhs.net)>

**Cc:** PANDIT, Ninjeri (NHS ENGLAND & NHS IMPROVEMENT - X24) <[ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net](mailto:ninjeri.pandit@nhs.net)>; psmatthancock <[psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:psmatthancock@dhsc.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Query regarding surgery postponement

Hi Adam

We have been sent on the case below from an MP. I was hoping that you might be able to help confirm if the details set out are correct.

Our SpAds were not sure if this is the sort of surgery that it was agreed would be postponed, but we obviously do want to ensure we have the facts right.

If this is as presented, it would be helpful if we could get a line that we can use in response.

Thanks

NR

NR

Senior Private Secretary, Office of the Secretary of State

(Shift rota with NR and NR)

Department of Health and Social Care, 39 Victoria St, London, SW1H 0EU

M: I&S E: NR @dhsc.gov.uk

For all submissions, please factor in Junior Minister clearance. SofS Office box times are 3pm Monday-Wednesday and 12pm Thursday.

I have a very sad case where one of my constituents was due to have a cancer operation at I&S hospital this week but it has been cancelled due to the issues with Coronavirus and lack of beds.

He completely understands the pressures on the Health Service but he understands if he does not have this operation he will lose his battle with cancer in the next 12 months.

This case is all over facebook, local ITV and other channels. He is 68 years old and desperate to live I&S children, lots of grandchildren. It is naturally very emotive. He has spent months going backwards and forwards to I&S too to prepare.

The family are saying online ' Boris Johnson said that no emergency operations will be cancelled due to Coronavirus but that is not true.'

I am super conscious that you are up to your eyes but is there anything you, the SoS or one of the Ministers can do? I very much want to help this family.

We are writing to the chief executive too. Apparently the hospital are considering the matter again tomorrow or this week.

I&S

Colorectal Admissions

Consultant specialist surgeon Mr Quyn

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NR

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My resident: I&S

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