

ELLIOT COLBURN MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

10 June 2020  
Our Ref: EC3605

Dear Matt,

I write on behalf of Independent Age which, as you will know, is a charitable organisation focused on providing advice and support to older people, including many of my own constituents in Carshalton and Wallington.

Independent Age have asked for clarity for people over-70 on the ongoing lockdown measures. I understand that recent polling they have conducted has shown that:

- 43 per cent of respondents thought that the Government's advice for people over-70 is to shield and not leave the home for any reason.
- Only 30 per cent of respondents identified the correct advice, which is for them to "take particular care" in social distancing.

The results suggest that thousands of older people around the UK, who do not have any underlying health conditions, may have completely shielded themselves and lived in isolation, when they could have left the house for socially distanced exercise and shopping for essentials.

I should be grateful if, on behalf of my older constituents, the Government could introduce targeted messaging and broadcast advertising to the clinically vulnerable group – including over-70s without underlying health conditions – clarifying what is meant by 'particular care', using real life examples.

I know that Independent Age has also called for the Government to work more closely with voluntary organisations to empower older people to understand their risk from COVID-19, and understand how to manage it.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Colburn', written in a cursive style.

**Elliot Colburn**  
Conservative Member of Parliament for Carshalton and Wallington

Serving the people of Carshalton and Wallington

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