



Head Office: Marchmont Community Centre, 62 Marchmont Street, London WC1N 1AB  
Tel: 020 7837 6622 • Email: [info@npcuk.org](mailto:info@npcuk.org) • Web: [www.npcuk.org](http://www.npcuk.org)

21 April 2020

Frances O'Grady  
General Secretary  
Trades Union Congress  
Congress House  
Great Russell Street  
London  
WC1B 3LS

Dear Frances,

We hope that you and your staff are able to stay safe and well during this very difficult period of time of life-changing events.

The NPC, as your sister organisation, support wholeheartedly your demand for a public inquiry into the appalling situation with personal protective equipment for front line staff in the NHS, care services and those risking their lives to keep us fed and safe.

The knowledge that large amounts of this equipment are being shipped abroad and government failing to respond to UK providers offering to fulfil orders here, speaks volumes about their strategy for dealing with COVID-19.

As you are aware, the NPC, along with other organisations defending the NHS and concerned about the crisis in social care has been raising the alarm over decades in an effort to get successive governments to deal with the underfunding of both services. Sadly, their neglect has come home to roost and people are suffering the most upsetting circumstances and loss of life within the nursing and caring professions as well as those in families and homes across the country. This should not be happening and certainly should never happen again.

We take the opportunity to enclose with this letter, our 'conversation' with Matt Hancock and Boris Johnson asking for a different direction of government in the future that puts fully publicly funded health and care services as a priority, free for all. This commitment will not come without some hard campaigning and we hope that we can rely on the TUC and its member Trade Unions to add to our voice. What happens after COVID-19 is crucial to the kind of society we want to see and be part of.

The initiative from the TUC on workers' rights and uplifting earnings is also something we are more than happy to support. What happens to individual and family incomes now will impact on their retirement package when that time comes. The NPC supports workers in struggle wherever they are – we were once them – they will be us in the future.

Please let us know if there is anything we are able to do to help in supporting the TUC at this crucial period in our history.

Stay safe and well.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Shortt', written in a cursive style.

**Jan Shortt**  
**General Secretary**