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The Presiding Officer  
c/o The Chamber Desk  
Room G10  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

31 March 2022

Dear Presiding Officer

## **The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 6) Regulations 2022**

The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 6) Regulations 2022 were made today by the Scottish Ministers under paragraph 1(1) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (“the 2020 Act”). These Regulations, which amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (“the Principal Regulations”), will come into force on 4 April 2022.

Paragraph 6(1) of schedule 19 of the 2020 Act states that regulations under paragraph 1(1) are subject to the affirmative procedure. However, paragraph 6(2) provides that the affirmative procedure will not apply if the Scottish Ministers consider that the regulations need to be made urgently. In such situations paragraph 6(3) applies. Paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the 2020 Act provides that “emergency regulations” must be laid before the Scottish Parliament and cease to have effect on the expiry of the period of 28 days beginning with the date on which the regulations were made (excluding any period during which the Parliament is dissolved or in recess for more than 4 days) unless, before the expiry of that period, the regulations have been approved by a resolution of the Parliament.

These Regulations remove from the Principal Regulations the provisions in relation to the requirement for persons who enter or remain indoors within a place of worship to wear a face covering. The requirement is removed in respect of any indoor public place which is, or is used as a place of worship. These Regulations also remove the requirement for those at a marriage ceremony, civil partnership registration, funeral or commemorative event related to the end of a person’s life to wear a face covering for the duration of the event. The requirement is removed in respect of such ceremonies and events in all indoor places.

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These requirements should not be in place any longer than is judged necessary and therefore Scottish Ministers consider that these Regulations need to be made urgently.

The Regulations also remove, from Regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations, a number of exemptions from the requirement to wear a face covering which applied in places of worship or at the events mentioned above, as they are no longer required as a consequence of the removal of the requirement for such places and events.

If your officials would like to discuss any matters arising from these Regulations, I would be happy to engage with them.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Conveners of the Covid-19 Recovery Committee, the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee and the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely,

**HUMZA YOUSAF**

C.c. Convener, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.  
C.c. Convener, Covid-19 Recovery Committee.  
C.c. Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

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