



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending watchdog

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Date 7 August 2020

British Safety Industry Federation members
via letter

Dear BSIF member

NAO STUDY: PPE SUPPLY TO THE NHS AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE DURING COVID-19

The [National Audit Office](#) (NAO) is collecting information on [the supply of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) to the NHS and social care during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) to assist in the preparation of a report for Parliament that will be published later this year.

We are collecting information from a range of sources and are interested in the experience of businesses providing PPE for use in health and/or adult social care in England during the pandemic. The British Safety Industry Federation has kindly agreed to help us. We have therefore prepared a list of questions for BSIF members and would be very pleased to hear from as many members as possible.

If you would like to contribute to this report, please consider the questions overleaf and email your responses to David.Williams@nao.org.uk and Paul.Wright-Anderson@nao.org.uk at the NAO by **Tuesday 1 September** (an earlier response would be appreciated if possible). Not all questions will be relevant to every business so please do not feel obliged to answer all of them.

Your data

The NAO's [privacy statement](#) is published on its website and explains how we use and protect the personal data we hold about individuals. To contact the NAO's Data Protection Officer, email DPO@nao.org.uk. We do not expect to refer to individual suppliers that submitted information through this call for evidence in our final report. In the unlikely event that we do wish to do so, we will first share draft extracts with the relevant organisation to agree factual accuracy before publication.

Before you begin

Please note when referring to 'medical PPE' in the questions below, we include items such as aprons, gowns and coveralls (which may not technically be PPE), as well as conventional types of PPE such as respiratory protective masks, eye and face protection, gloves, and hand protection. This is because aprons and gowns have commonly been used alongside PPE during the pandemic and are often described as PPE in health and care settings. We also include medical device masks that are worn to protect the patient from the wearer.

Questions

Before the pandemic

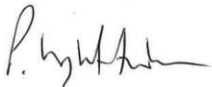
1. Do you have any comments on how well the NHS and adult social care arrangements for procuring PPE worked before the pandemic?

During the pandemic

2. If you offered to sell medical PPE for use in the NHS and/or adult social care: Which organisations and/or types of provider did you approach, and how did they respond?
3. What have been the main challenges in selling medical PPE for use by the NHS and adult social care providers?
4. How well has government supported and communicated with you? Is there anything which could have been improved in the circumstances?
5. We heard from NHS and adult social care organisations that they saw the best and the worst of suppliers during the pandemic. For example, we heard that many came forward to offer support to health and care organisations. We also heard allegations that some suppliers were profiteering or selling medical PPE that did not meet required standards. Thinking about the behaviours you have witnessed, are you aware of any exceptionally supportive behaviours, or any unreasonable or dishonest practices?
6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about (for example, how resilience in the supply of PPE can be strengthened for the future)?

Thank you for your assistance with this work.

Yours sincerely



Paul Wright-Anderson
Audit Manager
Health Value for Money Studies