



Association of Breast Surgery  
at The Royal College of Surgeons of England  
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE  
Telephone 020 7869 6853  
[www.associationofbreastsurgery.org.uk](http://www.associationofbreastsurgery.org.uk)

Letter to all ABS Members

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Colleague

We are all aware of the current pressures of the Covid pandemic and the increasing difficulties this is causing in providing normal care for our patients.

As per our previous statement [please see the ABS website](#) for the principles you might consider applying in the running of your service and the treatment of individual patients in the current surge.

Today we want to draw your attention to two things, firstly [the letter from the four CMOs](#), and in particular paragraph 8 which states:

"We want doctors, in partnership with patients and other healthcare staff, always to use their professional judgement to assess the risks of both COVID and non-COVID harms to make sure people receive safe care, informed by the values and principles set out in their professional standards. A rational approach to varying practice in an emergency is part of that professional response" and [our response to this as it applies to the NHS Breast Screening Programme](#) as well as [a letter regarding the NHS BSP](#), which we sent to Prof Sir Simon Stevens earlier this month.

This letter has been sent to:

Prof Sir Simon Stevens  
Prof Chris Whitty  
Prof Bob Steele  
Prof Anne Mackie  
Prof Peter Johnson  
Prof Stephen Powis  
Dr Michael McBride  
Dr Gregor Smith  
Dr Frank Atherton  
Dr Nikki Kanani  
Prof Colin Melville  
Prof Helen Stokes-Lampard

We have yet to receive a response from those listed above but will keep you updated.

Thank you for all your hard work, your flexibility and resilience, and for continuing to provide excellent care in very trying circumstances.

Thank You

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie C. Doughty". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the "Kind regards" text.

**Julie Doughty**  
**ABS President**