



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

31 October 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Future regulation of non-surgical cosmetic procedures

Following my Private Members' Bill in 2020/21, which banned Botox treatments on the under 18s, the last Conservative Government brought forward an amendment to the Health and Care Act 2022 which gave the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care the power to bring into force a licensing scheme in England for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

The purpose of the scheme was to rightly ensure that consumers who choose to undergo a non-surgical cosmetic procedure can be confident that the treatment they receive is safe and of a high standard. It would mean practitioners will need to be licensed to perform specific procedures and the premises from which they operate will also need to be licensed.

In September 2023, a consultation entitled 'The licensing of non-surgical cosmetic procedures in England' was published, which sought views on:

- the types of treatments which could be included within the licensing scheme
- whether any procedures should be carried out only either by qualified and regulated healthcare professionals or under their clinical oversight
- whether procedures permitted to be carried out only by qualified and regulated healthcare professionals should only be carried out by Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered providers
- whether potential age restrictions should be imposed on those receiving specified procedures, in line with age restrictions on botulinum toxin injections, cosmetic fillers, tattoos, teeth whitening and sunbed use

Since coming into power, the Labour Government is yet to comment on whether they plan to respond to this conclusion. I recently tabled a Written Question, on the planned timetable, and was informed in the response that "the Government is currently considering what steps may need to be taken in relation to the safety of the non-surgical cosmetics sector" and that "the Government will set out its position at the earliest opportunity".

However, whilst we wait, unscrupulous providers are continuing to treat patients.

Last month I met with the brilliant Ashton Collins, Director of Save Face. Ashton does fantastic and life changing work in this space, and when we spoke she voiced her severe concerns with the dangers of non-surgical Brazilian butt lift (BBL) and breast augmentations procedures that are being carried out using hyaluronic acid dermal fillers.



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In December 2023, Save Face published a report which highlighted the dangers of these procedures. And, since its publication over 300 more people have come forward to report issues associated with these treatments, nearly 50% of which were life threatening.

But tragically, in September, 33-year-old mother of 5, Alice Webb lost her life following complications associated with a liquid BBL procedure. This could have been prevented and sadly, without action, more will inevitably follow.

To date, Save Face have supported nearly 600 individuals who have suffered devastating complications from procedures falsely advertised as being risk-free. All of these cases were performed by practitioners lacking any healthcare experience, operating in unsuitable and unsterile environments, often using unlicensed products. Alarmingly, more than 52% of individuals assisted contracted sepsis, and over 39% required corrective surgery—many were told at the hospital that they might not survive.

Shockingly, it remains legal for anyone to perform these highly dangerous procedures, regardless of their qualifications or the condition of their facilities. When complications arise, those responsible are not held accountable.

It is imperative that the Government takes immediate action to firstly introduce a licensing scheme in England for non-surgical cosmetic procedures, and in the meantime introduce an urgent ban on high-risk BBL procedures, so that further tragedies like Alice's are stopped

I strongly urge you and your officials to meet with Ashton Collins and Save Face at the earliest opportunity. The impact of these complications is immense and life-altering. Hundreds of individuals are left with permanent disfigurements, chronic pain, and the inability to walk, care for their children or return to work. Action must be taken.

I understand that Ashton has written to you separately however if you need her contact details my office would be happy to provide them.

I am keen to work with the Government on this area, so look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Trott'.

**LAURA TROTT MBE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR SEVENOAKS & SWANLEY**