

**PE1841/X**

Sheila Hall submission of 4 March 2021

I am a founding member of Care Home Relatives Scotland however this is my own personal statement. My family member is 96 years old and resident in a care home. They have lost the will to carry on.

I completely appreciate the initial response to the COVID pandemic and fear felt by care home companies, managers and those responsible for our loved ones in care, however, there would have been no need for this petition, a demonstration, numerous meetings with the Health Secretary and Scottish Government groups, seven months of campaigning, pain, tears and broken hearts if the following simple steps had been followed –

- Throughout the pandemic, every resident in a care home should have been given the opportunity to have one designated visitor / care giver.
- Many of us are not simply “visitors” and have always played an essential role in our loved ones’ care. This access would not have been requested by everyone.
- We would have followed all the guidance applicable to the staff members and posed no additional risk to the home.
- We would have been able to assist with care, feeding, mobility, stimulation, love and company.

This one simple option would have prevented untold trauma, grief and the nightmare of knowing that a loved one had died in isolation and without recent meaningful contact with a family member.

Please support the petition and ensure that this situation will never again happen in the future.