

**PE1841/K**

Lisa Cameron MP submission of 18 February 2021

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents who are in support of Petition PE1841.

The Breaking Hearts Campaign has been actively seeking the reintroduction of compassionate close contact visits to care homes for the families of people living with dementia.

Whilst everyone involved appreciates the efforts Government have made towards suppressing and controlling the spread of Covid19 it is understandable that those who have not been able to see or interact their loved ones since the pandemic struck are desperate to be allowed access to visit their family members.

Dementia is such a cruel disease which greatly affects a person's mental wellbeing, capacity to fully comprehend situations and leaves them confused and anxious. Family members who have lived with the effects of dementia are able to share experiences, reminisce and soothe their loved ones in ways that can ease their anxieties, confusion and loneliness.

Family members acknowledge the risks of spreading Covid19 and as such are willing to be tested regularly, wear appropriate PPE if necessary and to maintain a high standard of sanitising at all time throughout permitted visits.

The heartache experienced by families not able to interact with mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, brothers and sisters has been excruciating and the frustration unbearable. No one else wants to lose a loved one to Covid-19 in a care home without being able to share precious time together, trying to recapture old memories and being given the chance to make new ones.