

Care Inspectorate submission of 11 March 2024

PE2071/C: Take action to protect people from airborne infections in health and social care settings

As noted in both the petitioner and Scottish Government submissions, Care Inspectorate guidance includes information on the need to consider ventilation in the design of care homes.

We note that the guidance cited in both submissions is now out of date and would draw attention to the following version: [Care Homes for Adults – The Design Guide](#) (2022). As well as setting out what needs to be considered in relation to new or converted care homes, the guidance is also relevant when planning to improve the environment of existing premises, as noted in the introduction.

The guidance includes a section titled Ventilation, lighting and heating, which contains advice supplementing the following regulations and Health and Social Care Standards:

- The Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (Requirements for Care Services) Regulations 2011 (SSI 2011/210), regulation 10(2)(c) – Fitness of Premises states that all services must provide “adequate and suitable ventilation, heating and lighting”.
- Standard 5.12 states: “If I live in a care home, I can control the lighting, ventilation, heating and security of my bedroom.”
- Standard 5.18 states: “My environment is relaxed, welcoming, peaceful and free from avoidable and intrusive noise and smells.”
- Standard 5.19 states: “My environment has plenty of natural light and fresh air, and the lighting, ventilation and heating can be adjusted to meet my needs and wishes.”

The guidance makes clear that care homes must not rely on mechanical ventilation only and must have the ability for fresh air to be provided.

We note that there are other relevant bodies with roles and responsibilities in relation to the topic of the petition. In our guidance we signpost a range of other appropriate sources of advice and information on ventilation, including guidance by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and Health Facilities Scotland (HFS).

We hope that this clarification is helpful in your consideration of this petition.