Rt Hon Wes Streeting

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care 39 Victoria Street

London SW1H 0EU

Dear Minister,

RE: independent review report on the internal culture of the NMC

Firstly, may we at the School and Public Health Nurses Association (SAPHNA), extend our warmest welcome and sincere congratulations on your appointment as the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

We are very much looking forward to working with you and supporting you to reclaim, restore repair, strengthen and rebuild the NHS, Social Care and workforce, specifically public health school nurses whom we represent.

We are writing today to express our deepest concerns regarding the professional regulatory body, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

The review of the internal culture of the NMC is a highly damning report, laying bare a systemic poor culture, practices and racism. Its role is to protect the public; this report throws into question how, in its current state, it can operate to fulfill this. As a nurse of nearly four and a half decades, similar to that of Anne Keen, our colleague and your nurse advisor, I alongside my team, our members, partners and our colleagues, have lost faith that we and the public we serve can be adequately safeguarded. Those courageous enough to step forward and ‘whistleblow’ their professional concerns, have been repeatedly ignored, creating huge risks.

The NMC has a history of being dysfunctional surrounding its statutory objectives and fitness to practice cases. It has also received £20M additional investment to address huge backlogs, to little effect. It has been interesting to recently see a flurry of activity in recruiting to posts within the Nursing and Midwifery Council to do just this; a case of too little to late? There remains over 400 outstanding cases to be reviewed and thousands more awaiting hearings creating uncertainty, fragility and, tragically, causing loss of life!

SAPHNA is calling for an urgent independent review of the NMC and the performance of its regulatory functions; this essential to restore public and professional confidence and, most critically improve nurses and nursing safety

As an institution, the NMC used to be viewed and held in highest esteem, we need to urgently redress this if we are to truly reclaim our once exacting standards, safety and quality; this must be at the heart of regaining our envied and beloved National Health Service.

We trust you will agree to our proposed urgent action and welcome any opportunity to meet to discuss and to be involved.

Yours sincerely





**Sharon White OBE**

CEO SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES ASSOCIATION