



Sandy Burgess  
sandy.burgess@smta.co.uk

Our Reference: 202000091833

2 October 2020

Dear Mr Burgess,

Thank you for your email on 22 September on behalf of the Scottish Motor Trade Association regarding confusion over face coverings and social distancing. I have been asked to respond as I work within the Scottish Government's Business and Enterprise team. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding. This is due to the increasing volume of correspondence we are receiving at the moment.

When Scotland entered Phase Three of its lockdown easing plan it was announced that retail, along with the hospitality and public transport sectors, will be exempt from the two-metre rule. Retailers were given the option to reduce the physical distancing rule to one metre, as long as they put necessary mitigations in place from 15 July.

Additionally, from 10 July face coverings became mandatory in shops, except where an exemption applies (as defined in the [regulations](#)). Staff are also required to wear a face covering unless they are physically separated from customers, by means of, for example, partition screens. They also do not require a face covering if they maintain a two-metre distance from customers or members of the public. In any of these circumstances where staff do not require a face covering, they are still mandatory for customers.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)



Thank you for taking the time to write to the Scottish Government with your query and I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,  
Jane Macfarlane

Jane Macfarlane  
**EID : Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and Business Support**

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