

12 June 2026

Dame Chi Onwurah
Chair
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Dame Chi,

Licensing of non-surgical cosmetic procedures

I am writing on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health following the oral evidence session on 3 June that was held as part of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee inquiry into the science and regulation of hair and beauty products and treatments.

We are very grateful for the opportunity given to our witness, Victor Ktorakis, to highlight the inadequacy of the current regulatory framework for non-surgical cosmetic procedures (see, in particular, his comments [here](#)) and for the interest shown by committee members in ensuring that this problem is addressed.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has the power to introduce an England-wide licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures under the Health and Care Act 2022. The previous government held a consultation on the scope of a proposed new licensing scheme in 2023. A response to the consultation published by the current government in August 2025 reflected a continuing intention to introduce such a scheme.

We believe that implementation of the proposed new licensing scheme is a crucial step towards ensuring that people who undergo non-surgical cosmetic procedures receive treatment from practitioners who are properly trained and qualified, have the necessary insurance cover and operate from premises that are safe and hygienic. While welcoming the Government's plans for the highest risk cosmetic procedures to be regulated by the Care Quality Commission, we are concerned about the continuing delay in implementation of the proposed new licensing scheme for other procedures.

We are therefore asking the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee to recommend to the Government that it should speed up the implementation of the proposed new licensing

scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures without narrowing the proposed range of procedures to be regulated. We recognise that further consultation is needed (e.g. on education and training standards) but, given that nearly three years have elapsed since the consultation on the scope of the scheme, it would be helpful if the committee could encourage the Government to undertake the necessary further consultation as soon as possible.

We appreciate, of course, that the scheme must be flexible enough to be adapted as new procedures come to the market. This point was reflected in the consultation document produced in 2023.

We are also concerned about the amount of fragmentation and duplication that will be involved in the regulation of cosmetic procedures. Many businesses offer a range of procedures and will want to be regulated in an efficient way. We therefore believe that the scope of the proposed new licensing scheme should be extended to include tattooing, piercing and electrolysis, which are currently subject to registration under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, and that the relevant part of that Act and all the current licensing legislation should be revoked in so far as they apply to procedures which are covered by the new scheme.

We hope these points will prove helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Mark Elliott', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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P.S. Further information about our work on this issue can be found [here](#).