



*Dear Editor,*

*As we know, our health and care workers have made huge sacrifices in their heroic fight against COVID-19 - something we recognised as we applauded them every week.*

*Yet it is a bitter tragedy that so many have lost their lives on the way.*

*Amnesty's new report shows the UK has one of the highest numbers of coronavirus health worker deaths in the world.*

*At least 540 health and care workers in England and Wales have died from COVID-19, out of a global healthcare death toll of 3,000.*

*And even these alarming figures are likely to be a significant underestimate.*

*We owe it to our health and care workers and their families to discover what led to this terrible outcome and understand whether any of these deaths were avoidable.*

*That's why we urgently need an independent and transparent inquiry, with statutory powers, into the Government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.*

*Lessons must be learnt if we want to prevent similar tragic deaths in the future.*

*Sincerely,*