[PROVIDER HEADER]

[GP Address]

Dear [Name of GP]

**[NAME OF PATIENT. NHS NUMBER]**

I am writing to you because a patient who is registered with your Practice is resident in [name of care home/supported living placement/home etc]. This home may be required to undergo swabbing for Covid-19 either as a result of symptomatic individuals having contact with the home, or as part of routine surveillance processes.

The [Registered Manager or relevant person] has identified [the patient name] as being an individual who, following assessment, does not have capacity to make a decision about whether or not they should be swabbed for Covid-19 as part of the care home swabbing.

It is imperative therefore that a decision is made in this individual’s best interests and as the Registered GP for this resident you are invited to respond to this letter to [email or correspondence address for response]. Please could you provide your view as to whether or not a swab for Covid-19 would be in this individuals best interests. It is important that any view you give is qualified with an explanation as to why it is in this individuals best interests and not simply that it is in accordance with public health practices to swab individuals for Covid-19.

Factors that may be relevant, although this list is not exhaustive would be:

* If not swabbed the individual will have to be assumed positive which will result in greater restrictions
* The swab may cause distress to the individual and if positive would be restricted in any event
* Even where an individual tests negative for Covid-19, if others in the residence test positive this may still result in some restrictions to their movement and accessibility to bits of the building
* Any advance directive the individual has made that reflects a view that individual has on testing processes (accepting this is unlikely to specifically refer to testing for Covid-19

I would ask if you could respond by [date] and if you have not responded by this date I will assume that you do not wish to be included in best interests decision for this individual relating to Covid-19 swabbing.

Yours sincerely

[Registered Manager]