**FORMAL REQUEST FOR LETTER TO REASONABLY EXCUSE WEARING A FACE MASK IN RETAIL OUTLETS**

Dear Dr. [INSERT NAME OF YOUR DOCTOR]

Date: [INSERT DATE]

Re: Statutory Instrument Number 296 of 2020

Dear Doctor,

As you will be aware Statutory Instrument Number 296 of 2020 (the “**Statutory Instrument**”) provides that from 10 August 2020 members of the persons shall not be permitted to enter or remain in a relevant premises without wearing a face covering, unless they can avail of one of the reasonable excuses set out at section 5 of the Statutory Instrument.

The purpose of this letter is to formally request from you, my doctor, a letter which I may use in accordance with section 4 (1) of the Statutory Instrument (as set out below).

I believe that I may avail of the following reasonable excuse under section 5 (Reasonable Excuse) of the Statutory Instrument:

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| --- |
| (a) the person cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering -(ii) without severe distress |

The reason I make this request to you, my doctor, is as follows:

1. You have access to my confidential medical information and may test the veracity of my claim as to a reasonable excuse, meaning you are the most appropriate person to verify that I fall into one of the exemptions set under section 5 of the Statutory Instrument;
2. In the event you feel that you are not the most appropriate person to provide this letter, the only other option is that I disclose my confidential medical information every day upon entry to a shop or other relevant premises to multiple different shop employees or the Gardai and to be frank, I would feel very anxious and distressed in having to do this; Furthermore, there are verifiable reports that such self-certification has been refused on many occasions – meaning that I will either be ejected from the store; forced to wear a face covering although exempt; or be arrested. This is the very real result of any refusal to provide an exemption letter.

The reason I have decided to put this request in writing is because I have heard disturbing reports that the Health Service Executive is sternly advising doctors not to provide patients with exemption letters. If this is true, it is most troublesome and worrying, not least considering the HSE’s negligent actions (or more correctly inactions) with regard to elderly patients in nursing homes, over which I expect a public inquiry will be initiated in time.

I trust that you will give due regard to the contents of this letter and accede to the request, however, in the event that you cannot accede I formally request a reasoned response in writing as to your refusal - noting that a general “*we do not provide such letters*” would be considered wholly inappropriate.

Finally, in the event that you refuse my request, when you revert with your reasoned response for such refusal, please enclose a copy of your Professional Indemnity policy / cover note or your PI insurers contact details as I shall wish to put them on notice as regards liability for any damage, loss or injury which results directly or indirectly from your refusal.

Yours faithfully,

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[INSERT YOUR FULL NAME]
[INSERT YOUR FULL ADDRESS]
[INSERT YOUR DATE OF BIRTH]