Social Work England

1 North Bank

Blonk Street

Sheffield

S3 8JY

22 December 2021

Re: Photo identification cards to confirm registration

Dear Social Work England,

I write to you as a registered social worker that provides independent services within England.

My social work activities may include visiting private residences, statutory and/ or other organisations such as care homes and criminal justice centers. Some of these places have requested photo identification to verify my identity, and in these instances, my only option has been to use personal documentation. I have safety concerns that there is sensitive information on my identification that I would prefer not to share as part of my professional activities.

A number of premises that I visit and in particular private homes, have not requested identification cards. From a safeguarding perspective this concerns me. Having standardized photo identification cards would support us as professionals to insist on displaying our ID. Importantly, this demonstrates good practice in protecting members of the public including vulnerable people.

As an independent social worker that does not have an employer, I do not have photo identification that would ordinarily be provided by an employer. As the regulator supporting the full social work profession in England, I kindly request that Social Work England facilitate and provide photo identification cards to myself and other registered colleagues that do not currently have access to this professional documentation.

Kind regards

SW [Insert registration number]