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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair
Science and Technology Select Committee
House of Commons

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Greg

Thank you for your letter of 20 April to us about the importance of transparency and the publication of the evidence provided to SAGE.

We both feel strongly that transparency, including on the evidence informing the views of SAGE, is important in helping to maintain the public's trust and helping to grow understanding of the disease, while also helping explain how advice to the Government is being formed during this difficult time. It is also a fundamental aspect of science, allowing others to challenge and build on evidence and interpretation.

The SAGE Secretariat is in the process of compiling the very substantial volume of evidence that has been used to inform SAGE's views with the aim to publish larger batches of evidence as soon as we can. We anticipate that the Secretariat will establish regular publishing cycles on an approximately monthly basis. In the near term we may not be able to publish papers in a completely chronological order as we do not wish to delay all the papers in a batch while waiting for author's approval to publish on a smaller number. We intend to press ahead with what we do have permission to publish and backfill any gaps as approvals are given. As we highlighted in our previous correspondence, we will endeavour to notify you and the Committee in advance of the publication of future evidence.

We hope this reassures you that we continue to take the issue of transparency extremely seriously and will be doing our utmost to exemplify that as we publish the evidence that has informed decision making.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Vallance

Chris Whitty