



Government
Office for Science

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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair
Science and Technology Select Committee (Commons)

BY EMAIL ONLY

28 May 2020

Dear Greg,

RE: Transparency of scientific evidence: social distancing

I would like to thank you and the committee for your letter regarding transparency of scientific evidence around social distancing and to reassure you that the advice given around the 2 metre distance has been considered in detail by both SAGE and its subgroups.

We agree that transparency is key to building public confidence, and this includes the evidence informing the advice of SAGE. Work to release the papers you refer to is on-going. Two social distancing papers were published on Tuesday 26th March 2020 and further papers are to be released Friday 29th May 2020.

We have already released a large number of key papers that have informed SAGE advice, with the latest batch of evidence, published on 22 May 2020. They can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response>.

Going forward, the Government Office for Science is working to regularly publish evidence, documents and studies which have formed the basis of SAGE's discussions and advice to Ministers.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Vallance