



Liaison Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Sir Bernard Jenkin MP, Chair

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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5 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister

APPEARANCE BEFORE THE LIAISON COMMITTEE ON 27th MAY

Thank you for appearing before the Committee last week. My colleagues and I were pleased to see you so soon after our formation.

As is usual, I am writing with those areas which you committed to follow-up in writing, or where we are seeking clarification or further information. I know some Chairs have also written to you individually with questions arising from the work of their own Committees.

1. You undertook to come back to me about the date of your next appearance before the Committee (Q. 1). As I said in the hearing, the Committee feels strongly that this should be before the summer recess. The Committee looks forward to your response.
2. In response to Greg Clark (Q32), you explained that you had asked the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) to review the 2-metre guidance ahead of 15th June. I understand that Mr Clark has written to you specifically on this matter, but this Committee would also appreciate confirmation of when SAGE's updated analysis will be published.
3. You committed, in response to Jeremy Hunt, to providing the latest figures on the length of time it takes to receive the result of a Coronavirus test (Q45). Could you provide figures on the proportion of tests being completed within 24 hours, how that proportion is changing over time and what measures will be taken to get all results returned within 24 hours?
4. Thank you for committing to look at the proposal of an apprenticeship guarantee in response to Robert Halfon (Q65). You have subsequently said you believe young people should be guaranteed an apprenticeship. Could you update the Committee on your proposals?
5. You also committed, in another answer to Robert Halfon, to write to the Committee about refunding tuition fees to students who work for the NHS during the current pandemic (Q66). The Committee looks forward to your response on this point.
6. In response to Stephen Timms, you committed to "find out how many there are in that position [people with leave to remain who have no recourse to public funds]

and see what we can do to help.” (Q68-69) Could you set out how many people are subject to “no resource to public funds” conditions and what support you will bring forward to support them?

7. Caroline Nokes (Q73) asked what advice you had taken about the impact of the phased reopening of schools on women’s ability to return to work. Could you set out what advice you have received about the proportion of women who will not be able to return to work whilst schools remain partially closed? What assessment has been made of the resulting impact on parents and businesses?
8. In answer to a question from Mel Stride (Q85) you committed to look at allowing dividends to contribute towards the assessment of income for self-employed people under the furlough scheme. The Committee looks forward to hearing the outcome of your discussions with the Chancellor in your response.
9. Responding to a question from Darren Jones (Q92) you committed to bringing a post-Covid economic recovery plan “to you and everybody else in Parliament.” Could you tell us when this will be published and could you commit to ensuring Select Committee Chairs have advance sight of it?
10. In response to a question about quarantine from Huw Merriman (Q97) you said the Government would use three-week review periods to “be sensible”. Will the proposal to lift quarantine restrictions from countries with lower infection rates than the UK be part of the next review period (i.e. leading up to the 29th June)?
11. In answer to questions from Huw Merriman (Q99-100), you said you were “actively looking at what we can do” where companies are using the furlough scheme alongside redundancy consultations or to erode workers’ pay and conditions. Could you set out what proposals the Government is looking at and what timescales they might be introduced to?
12. You stated, in response to a question from Yvette Cooper (Q103), that all advice from SAGE, including minutes, will be published. When will the full scientific advice on the decision not to have quarantines in place from high-infection countries during the early stages of the crisis be published?
13. In answer to a question submitted by Tobias Ellwood (Q. 107) you pointed to the very recent appointment of Simon Case. Why has the Government decided to only tweak its Cabinet structure in response to this enduring emergency? Why was a central situation centre not established to execute the operational /delivery side of the Government response; rather than establishing four Cabinet Sub-Committees lead by very capable policy makers - but with limited experience in responding to national emergencies? Would you be willing to meet with the Chief of the Defence Staff to discuss this proposal?

Thank you again for appearing before the Committee. We look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Yours ever



Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
Chair of the Committee