



Science and Technology Committee

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

By e-mail

21 April 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Rapid stand-up of covid-19 testing

In our Committee's recent 30 March [evidence session](#) with the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, he testified that there are three key of response mechanisms to consider as we continue to live with covid-19. These are:

- a. Variant surveillance and genomic sequencing;
- b. The operational capacity to ramp up covid-19 test provision; and
- c. Protection of vulnerable groups in society.

Following Sir Patrick's testimony, the Committee wished to follow-up with you on the UK's future testing strategy, specifically:

- a. What reassurances you have received on the UK's capacity to rapidly stand-up testing provision should a future scenario require it;
- b. Where Government and public agency responsibility lies for ensuring the provision of future testing; and
- c. On what timescale tests would be provided if required.

We would be grateful for your reflections on the points raised by Wednesday 4 May 2022.

As is usual with the Committee's correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair