



Science and Technology Committee

Sir Patrick Vallance
Government Chief Scientific Adviser and National Technology Adviser

By e-mail

21 April 2022

Dear Sir Patrick,

30 March evidence session

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for your recent 30 March evidence. The Committee was particularly grateful for your insightful testimony across a broad span of your portfolio. I wished to write to you in follow-up to the session on two points.

Disclosure of Secretary of State and Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser meetings

As I acknowledged in our 30 March session, you have been a great champion of transparency and publication throughout the course of the covid-19 pandemic. I was pleased to see confirmation in your letter after the session that you have taken action to address the Committee's disappointment that Government departments have, in the main, decided to no longer disclose information on the frequency with which their Secretary of State meets with the Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser. We welcome GO-Science's commitment to work with the Cabinet Office's parliamentary team to produce guidance for departments responding to this question in future PQs and I look forward to the data being provided in the next set of parliamentary questions I table.

Rapid stand-up of covid-19 testing

You may wish to note our attached [letter](#) to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. Given the role of testing in the national response throughout the pandemic, in which you have played a vital role, your thoughts on the capability of mounting an immediate ramp up of covid-19 testing if needed would be of great reassurance to the Committee.

We would be grateful for any 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