



Science and Technology Committee

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
(by e-mail)

25 May 2022

Dear Sajid,

Thank you for your letter of 9 May 2022 relating to the rapid stand-up of covid-19 testing.

Your letter set out who was responsible for the rapid stand-up of covid-19 testing and outlined contingency arrangements in place. To provide further reassurance to the Committee, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

1. How many lateral flow devices (LFDs) are held as part of the supply to “offer tests to critical cohorts and for early epidemiological assessment”;
 - a. How is this supply being monitored to ensure that tests are not past their use by date;
2. In relation to the contracts you mentioned which have been put in place for additional tests:
 - a. How many contracts does the Government have in place;
 - b. What proportion of the value of these contracts are with UK suppliers;
 - c. What further steps is the Government taking to diversify the supply chain for tests; and
 - d. On average, how many days would it take for LFDs to be available for distribution as part of these contracts;
3. How many days would it take to ramp up to full population testing following the distribution of LFDs “to a million people within the first 10 days of mobilised response”;
4. How many PCR tests per day could be undertaken 10 days after a ramp-up had begun; and
5. How many days would it take to be able to commence contact tracing following a ramp-up of covid-19 testing.

We would be grateful for your response to these questions by Monday 6 June 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

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