



Science and Technology Committee

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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health and Social Care
(By e-mail)

30 September 2020

Dear Matt,

Science advice behind COVID-19 measures

I write to you in my capacity as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee and in relation to the Committee's ongoing work on the COVID-19 pandemic.¹

As you know, my Committee has sought throughout the pandemic to illuminate and understand the evidence and advice underlying key Government decisions. The importance of maintaining clarity, transparency and confidence in the evidence-base informing decision-making has become increasingly apparent in recent weeks as the UK has reached a critical juncture ahead of winter and further measures have been introduced by the Government to manage the spread of the virus.

With this in mind, I would be grateful if you could set out the evidence and advice drawn upon by the Government to inform the measures you announced in the House on 21 September.²

I would also be grateful if, in your response, you could detail the evidence and advice informing the decision to mandate the closure of businesses selling food or drink between the hours of 10pm and 5am,³ including from:

- the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies and related groups including SPI-M and SPI-B;
- Public Health England and the National Institute for Health Protection, including from the Joint Biosecurity Centre; and
- the sponsoring department(s) of the hospitality industry, Her Majesty's Treasury and other departmental and external advisers, as appropriate.

I am also writing to the Government Chief Scientific Adviser in similar terms. I would be grateful to receive your response by Tuesday 13 October at the latest. I will publish this letter and your response on the Committee's website in due course.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg'.

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair

¹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/91/uk-science-research-and-technology-capability-and-influence-in-global-disease-outbreaks/>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/new-measures-in-response-to-the-acceleration-of-coronavirus>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-22-september>