



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Will Quince MP
Minister of State for Health and Secondary Care*

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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
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By email: pubaccom@parliament.uk

19 December 2022

Dear Dame Meg,

I am writing to you following the recent Opposition Day that took place on Tuesday 6 December regarding Government Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) contracts. During the debate, I informed the House that we would be in touch with your Committee to discuss arrangements for sharing the information sought by the House relating to the letting of PPE contracts to PPE Medpro.

As the information relates to the procurement of PPE, the exercise to collate the material in scope of the Humble Address is being coordinated by the Department for Health and Social Care. The Cabinet Office is contributing to this process.

DHSC remains in protected conversations with PPE Medpro as part of a wider mediation process and there is also an ongoing investigation by the Lords Commissioner for Standards. Meanwhile, DHSC have started to scope the disclosure exercise and have made contact with the National Crime Agency.

The NCA has confirmed that they opened an investigation in May 2021 into suspected criminal offences committed in the procurement of PPE contracts by PPE Medpro. We will look into timescales as part of our scoping activities and be ready to share information with the Committee as soon as possible, although as noted in the debate this may have to be once the investigation has concluded. We are exploring this with the NCA. The Government is committed to a constructive dialogue with the Committee on these points and DHSC Ministers will keep you updated as this work progresses.

As you noted in the debate, the Committee is experienced in responsibly handling information. I am sure we can, if appropriate within the sensitivities of the ongoing investigations, come to an understanding that enables Parliament and your Committee to perform its important scrutiny role we will work with your team accordingly.

I hope this information is helpful.
Yours sincerely,

**WILL QUINCE MP
MINISTER OF STATE**