



Department
of Health &
Social Care

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

*From the Chief Medical Officer & Chief Scientific Adviser
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Dear Mr. Halfon,

I gather you want me to comment on correspondence from the National Education Union (NEU).

I do not consider any of the statements that Dr. Harries made, that are highlighted within their letter, intentionally or inadvertently misleading given our current state of knowledge. Clearly our state of knowledge develops over time, and different people will phrase the same points using the same data differently with no bad intent. The NEU have their own view of the evidence, which is perfectly reasonable they put forward, but senior public health officials should give an independent view, which Dr. Harries did.

Yours sincerely,

**PROFESSOR CHRIS WHITTY
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