



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

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

30 July 2020

Dear Matt,

On behalf of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, I would like to pass on its gratitude to you for attending the hearing on 21 July. I know that such meetings involve a lot of work and that you—and your Department—are very busy at the moment.

You will remember, during the evidence session, that you agreed to write to the Committee with further information on several points which are set out below:

- Firstly, my colleague Mark Logan asked “how many masks do you think that we are going to require now on a weekly or indeed monthly basis across the UK?”. You said that you will “write to you with the exact figures of how many masks were used in the last week” (Q1196).
- Secondly, my colleague Dawn Butler asked you to provide details of:
 - how many facemasks were ordered from ‘Ayanda Capital Limited’ and how many have been received (Q1202);
 - how many garments for biological or chemical protection have been ordered from ‘Aventis Solutions Limited’ and ‘Luxe Lifestyle Ltd’ and how many have been received (Q1202 – 1204);
 - how many units of PPE were ordered from ‘PestFix’ and how many have been received (Q1204); and
 - the research conducted by Public First, which has been awarded £840,000 of public money for focus group work related to the coronavirus crisis, and whether it has been commissioned by yourself, Public Health England, or otherwise (Q1208).
- Thirdly, you committed to writing to the Committee “in full” with “the whole NHS restart plan, which has now been ongoing for many weeks” (Q1170).
- Finally, you said you would write to the Committee with details of how members of the public can volunteer to take part in clinical trials (Q1214).

Further, during the session you confirmed that it was your decision, agreed by the Prime Minister, to set a target for 100,000 tests a day by the end of April, and that this was based on an “internal projection”. Did similar ‘internal projections’ underpin the decision to increase hospital bed capacity, through actions such as the construction of seven new ‘Nightingale Hospitals’ in England? Did you seek broader, scientific, advice when considering this policy?

I would be grateful to receive your response by Wednesday 12 August.

With best wishes,



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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

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

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

Chair