



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
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William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and
Constitutional Affairs Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

Our reference: MC2021/04083

12/3 March 2021

To Will,

Thank you for your letter of 24 February, in which you asked about vaccine passports.

The Government set out in the *COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021* publication that we will review whether COVID-status certification could play a role in reopening our economy, reducing restrictions on social contact and improving safety. The Government will set out its conclusions ahead of Step 4 of the roadmap, which will happen no earlier than 21 June. The review will report to the Prime Minister, who has asked me to lead this work.

COVID-status certification involves using testing or vaccination data to confirm in different settings that people have a lower risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others.

The review will consider to what extent certification would be effective in reducing risk, and the potential uses to enable access to settings or a relaxation of COVID-secure mitigations. The Government will consider the ethical, equalities, privacy, legal and operational aspects of this approach and what limits, if any, should be placed on organisations using certification. The review will draw on external advice to develop recommendations that take into account any social and economic impacts, and implications for disproportionately impacted groups and individuals' privacy and security. It will also consider wider international evidence and best practice, and will be joined up with the ongoing work led by the Department for Transport on the Travel Health Certification Programme, which is exploring the role that vaccine and/or testing recognition could play in facilitating international travel, and pilots being led by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

I am happy to share the Terms of Reference once agreed, and to give evidence to your Committee on this review once it has concluded.

With every good wish,

Yours,
Michael

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**



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Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office
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24th February 2021

Dear Michael,

Covid Vaccine Passports

There have been media reports that you will be leading a review into the feasibility of vaccine passports, which will also consider using an NHS app as a means of people showing their covid-19 vaccine status.

I would be grateful if you could write to the Committee setting out the terms of reference for this review, including its deadline for reporting, to whom it will report, and whether the review will be published in full at that time. The Committee would also be interested to understand the safeguards that will be considered to ensure that the use of passports or an app would not discriminate against protected groups or against people who choose not to or cannot use technology in this way, as well as giving full consideration to the myriad of ethical issues that this prospect presents.

I can understand that the review may be scoping at the moment, in which case the Committee would be interested to hear your early thoughts at a public evidence session before the Easter recess, and would be grateful if you could let us know your availability so that we can accommodate you. I am placing a copy of this letter in the public domain and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours ever,
William

William Wragg MP
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee