



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

Professor Sharon Peacock
Public Health England
Wellington House
133–155 Waterloo Road,
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30 March 2020

Dear Professor Peacock,

Evidence behind COVID-19 testing strategy

I and my Committee are very grateful to you for giving evidence on 25 March regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the very hard work that you and your colleagues are contributing to addressing the COVID-19 emergency.

A robust approach to testing is key to improving our understanding of the spread of COVID-19 and to assessing the effectiveness of public health interventions. We are deeply grateful for the intense work carried out by scientists, technicians and healthcare workers towards achieving this goal.

In the Committee's evidence session, you explained that Public Health England (PHE) was adopting a different approach to testing than the distributed approach used in South Korea. You indicated that PHE would publish the evidence base and rationale for adopting this different approach "in the next few days". Given the high level of public interest in the testing conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee would be very grateful if you were able to provide us with this information at the earliest possible opportunity, and by Friday 10 April at the latest. I will be publishing this letter on the Committee's website in due course.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair