



Science and Technology Committee

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

Kathy Hall
Department of Health and Social Care,
39 Victoria Street,
London, SW1H 0EU

14 April 2020

Dear Kathy,

On behalf of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, I would like to pass on its sincere gratitude to you for giving evidence on Wednesday 8 April. The importance of testing for managing the COVID-19 pandemic is clear and we know you are busy, so we are very grateful to you for making time to contribute to our inquiry.

The evidence session raised further questions on testing priority for key workers and on the procurement of antibody tests. I would therefore be very grateful if you could provide the Committee with the following information:

- details of the plan for which workers will be prioritised at different stages of the increase in testing capacity, and for when these different stages will be reached;
- how many companies signed contracts with the Government to supply antibody tests, and which companies they were;
- how much the Government is liable to pay for the antibody tests;
- which of the contracts contained contingency measures making payment dependent upon the demonstration of the tests' effectiveness and accuracy;
- what steps have been taken to recover the costs of the antibody tests that did not pass the evaluation tests;
- how much has been recovered so far; and
- why it was considered necessary to commit to pay for the antibody tests in advance of their effectiveness and accuracy being proven.

I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with this information by 23 April 2020. I am making a similar request to Professor John Newton. I will be publishing this letter on the Committee's website in due course.

With best wishes,

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair