



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair
Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

By email: scitechcom@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Clark

Oral evidence: Evidence behind COVID-19 testing strategy

I apologise for the delay in responding to the point raised during the panel discussion.

In the Committee's evidence session, you explained that Public Health England 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 this approach "in the next few days" (Q124). 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.

The Royal Society have agreed to prioritise research that will aim to understand the different approaches to testing and impact on R0 and to identify lessons learned from other countries.

We hope to have a time-line from them shortly and will share this with you on receipt.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Sharon Peacock
Director, National Infection Service, Public Health England