



Science and Technology Committee

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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

Professor Sharon Peacock CBE
Director, National Infection Service
Public Health England
(By e-mail)

1 May 2020

Dear Professor Peacock,

Evidence behind COVID-19 testing strategy

Thank you for your letter of 1 May in response to my letter of 30 March.

The Committee asked in the evidence session on 25 March and in the subsequent follow-up letter for the evidence that had informed Public Health England's prior decision to take a different approach to testing than that followed by South Korea and other countries, not a retrospective analysis conducted now of different countries' approaches to testing. On 25 March you indicated in evidence that PHE would publish the evidence base and rationale for adopting this different approach "in the next few days".

I would therefore be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the analysis and evidence that guided PHE's approach to testing at the time that the decision was taken to follow a different approach.

I would be grateful for a reply at your earliest convenience, and certainly by the Committee's next hearing on Thursday 7 May.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'G'.

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair