



Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport

Via email: [CabSecHS@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecHS@gov.scot)

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020**

Dear Jeane,

### **Covid-19 response**

I'm writing following the First Minister's statement on the 1<sup>st</sup> April to ask for more detailed information about the Scottish Government's Covid-19 response. I welcome the constructive approach that you and the Scottish Government have taken to working with opposition parties in recent weeks and am committed to continuing to support a fair and effective response. However, I am concerned that there needs to be greater transparency and would therefore appreciate answers to the following questions as soon as possible. Your response will also assist me in responding to my constituents in Lothian who are writing to me for clarity regarding the queries below.

### **Scotland's Covid-19 testing strategy**

- What proportion of the reported 6% of NHS workforce who are currently self-isolating have been tested?
- When will NHS staff, emergency service staff, and carers be able to access testing as required?
- We now have a capacity to carry out 1900 tests/day. When and how will capacity increase, up until the target of 3500 tests per day by the end of April.
- As you will know, even our target of 3500 tests per day is less than the existing test provision in Germany on a per capita basis. This discrepancy raises many questions given the wider WHO advice on testing and is causing public concern. Please could

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you therefore publish the scientific advice upon which Scotland's testing strategy is based on?

### **Provision of Personal Protective Equipment**

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April the Scottish Government confirmed that 34m items of PPE have been delivered to hospitals over the last 4-6 weeks. Please can you provide a breakdown of what PPE this refers to and how it compares to the amount requested by hospitals.
- It was also announced that "almost 8 million items of personal protective equipment stock to staff across primary care and social care" was being provided. Please can you provide a breakdown of what PPE this refers to, provide this information separately for primary and social care, and compare to the amount requested?
- Please can you clarify what PPE will be provided to other emergency services and when?
- Given global demand for PPE is growing exponentially, what effort is being made by the Scottish Government to increase production within Scotland?

### **Procurement of ventilators**

- How many ventilators have been ordered, from whom, and when is the agreed delivery date?
- How many operating theatre anaesthetic machines have been repurposed for use as ventilators, and how many are still to be repurposed? Given this is a temporary measure, how long is it anticipated that these machines will be in operation as ventilators?
- Based on current modelling how many ventilators will be required at the peak of the epidemic, and will this demand be met?

Thank you again for your constructive approach in this extremely challenging time,

Yours sincerely,



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