



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
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William Wragg MP
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By email to:
pacac@parliament.uk

9 May 2020

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 5 May. I am responding quickly regarding the Government's five tests, as requested. The Cabinet Office will follow up with further detail in due course relating to your other questions.

You ask how the Government is measuring progress towards the five tests. We are using a variety of data to assess progress. This includes expert advice from SAGE, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Chief Scientific Adviser.

There has been a consistent fall in the daily death rate, which has decreased from 1012 on the date of the last review to 626 on 7 May. On the rate of infection, SAGE provides updated assessments of the R rate in the community and other settings which, alongside data from a nationwide surveillance survey, are monitored to ensure that incidence levels are falling. They will also be asked to consider the impact of removing social distancing measures.

You also asked how the pandemic response is organised across Government. As I set out to the Committee, and to the House in my Statement on 28 April, we established four ministerial implementation groups on 17 March to lead the Government's response. The chairs of these groups report to the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Office will look to update our published departmental organogram in due course.

On the Daily Dashboard, this contains data for use in ministerial decision making, of various degrees of sensitivity. The elements which can usefully be shared publicly already inform graphs presented at Government press conferences. We will keep under review whether we can share further information with Parliament and the public.

Government receives regular reports on the capacity of the NHS including relating to staffing, ventilators, bed availability, the stock and demand levels of PPE, and testing. All of this will be

used to show progress towards the five tests as we consider the easing of social distancing measures as an important part of our decision-making process.

I hope this initial response is helpful.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Gove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Minister for the Cabinet Office**