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Rachel Reeves MP
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Our reference: MC2020/05421

29th May 2020

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for your letters of 14 and 21 May.

Your letters set out various questions on Government procurement in relation to PPE, testing, and contact tracing. As I explained previously, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has overall responsibility for these areas. Lord Bethell, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DHSC, will therefore respond to your points. In future, I would encourage you to contact relevant departments directly, as they will be better placed to respond.

In addition, you asked about free school meals vouchers. Details of the Government's contract with Edenred Ltd are publicly available on the Contracts Finder website. I can confirm, however, that the Government is only paying for the face value of goods delivered – the vouchers. For further questions, I suggest you contact the Department for Education which is leading this work.

The Prime Minister would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his letters of 18 and 19 May, and he has highlighted the issues raised in both with the relevant Ministers. He has also discussed the BAME review with Angela Rayner on yesterday's call with opposition leaders. Once the review's recommendations are finalised, we will of course take the necessary action on those recommendations.

I appreciate your commitment that Labour will support the Government to deliver the most effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will, of course, continue to engage with our shadow ministerial colleagues on the points raised.

With every good wish,

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