



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London
SW1A 2AS

Rachel Reeves MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Thank you for your letter of 16 July regarding the procurement of PPE.

As you may know, the Department of Health and Social Care leads on for the purchase of PPE for health and social care purposes.

I understand that the National Audit Office has already written to DHSC to inform the Department of its wish to start such an investigation. The Government looks forward to working closely with the NAO on this.

Like you, I am keen that the Government learns any relevant lessons from this exercise. While this procurement work was rightly done quickly and under great pressure, I believe the officials concerned balanced the urgent need for PPE with the requirement to obtain value for public money. You asked me in April to "give assurance that any UK company ready and willing to produce PPE to the right standard will not be overlooked". It is clear that this Government's outstanding efforts, at a time of unprecedented challenge, delivered on this.

With every good wish,

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