



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jeane Freeman
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Via email only

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Dear Jeane

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee on 7 May in relation to the provision of personal protective equipment during the Covid-19 outbreak.

This letter seeks the further information you offered to provide along with clarification in a few areas. For ease and context I refer to specific passages from the Official Report of 7 May.

In your opening statement you indicated contingency planning of supplies also “counteracts the risk of breaks in supply chains or of delays that are outwith our control” (column 3). Does that suggest current stocks now exceed anticipated demand, and if so by what margin? You later indicated orders are in the pipeline to take us through to the end of the year, and beyond in some instances, and I would be grateful if you could indicate whether those levels are based on current or normal usage (column 20).

Earlier you indicated current stock levels (column 5), could you provide an indication of the current weekly cost of PPE to meet current usage split between the NHS, Care Homes and social care generally?

In relation to advice from the new and emerging respiratory virus threats advisory group (NERVTAG) which also advises Scotland (column 7) were gowns and masks stockpiled here in line with its recommendations?

You agreed to provide us with a copy of the report from the Silver Swan exercise in 2015, along with that report could you advise the extent to which the final

recommendations were shared with care home providers and others providing social care.

You also undertook to provide details and a detailed explanation in relation to the decision to change the categorisation of Covid-19 from a high-consequence infectious disease (columns 10-11). Could you also confirm the current classification.

For completeness you also undertook to supply data on the number of unsuitable or rejected pieces of PPE (column 17).

I appreciate current focus across Government but as some of the above information has a direct bearing on current work of the Committee can I request a response by 21 May.

Yours sincerely



Lewis Macdonald

Convener, Health and Sport Committee