



# Health and Social Care Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

26 June 2020

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

Dear Prime Minister,

## **Re: 24 hour test results for Covid-19 follow-up**

I am writing to follow up my letter of 1<sup>st</sup> June, which was in relation to 24 hour test results for Covid-19.

In the Liaison Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> May you stated that you had set such a target, and we have heard evidence in our committee that strongly supports the importance of undertaking these tests within 24 hours.

I also raised the issue of 24 hour tests with Baroness Harding when she appeared before the Health and Social Care Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and she was unable to provide an answer on this issue at the session or in writing following the session. Earlier in the day on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, you responded to me in the House, giving an undertaking that tests would be processed within 24 hours by the end of June, except for difficulties with postal tests.

I am therefore writing to follow up the questions from my previous letter. In reply, could you please do the following –

1. Confirm that the government does have an official target of returning tests results within 24 hours?
2. Assuming the date for this target is 30<sup>th</sup> June, confirm whether it will be met.
3. Commit to publishing the breakdown on a daily basis of the number of test results received within 24 hours so the public can track progress towards the target.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to reply and I am sure you agree that returning tests within 24 hours will aid in the performance of NHS Test and Trace, as we move towards further relaxing the lockdown.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt hon Jeremy Hunt MP**  
**Chair, Health and Social Care Committee**