

**Extract from No.10 Daily Coronavirus Press Conference – 20 March 2020**

**Question by Francis Elliott of The Times:** Can you update us with how we are doing with Protective Personal Equipment? That is obviously something that is deeply concerning.

**Answer:** The country has a perfectly adequate supply of Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) at the moment. That encompasses quite a wide range of different gowns, masks, gloves, all sorts of things. There have been I think some differential deliveries, if you like, in some areas which has caused a degree of concern recently. That is completely resolved now and in fact what we have done in the last 36 hours is set up an entirely separate PPE oversight and supply chain which allows hospitals but we also need to be very clear there are other workers in the care system who are equally important and will allow that appropriate management to ensure that the supply and demand is there and I think, we do need to be clear, that this is an unprecedented event...health event for this country so it is not unlikely in many ways that we will have found a pressure in the early days where an individual hospital, individual trust or organisation has had to suddenly ramp up its demand but that supply is there and running alongside that there is a call out to arms...a bit like ventilators and testing as well to make sure that we are exploring every avenue and opportunity for keeping those supplies coming through.