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# Irrelevant & Sensitive

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak

THE PRIME MINISTER said that the thoughts and good wishes of the Cabinet were with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Care who had recently been diagnosed with Covid-19 (coronavirus).

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE said that in the UK, 373 people had been diagnosed with coronavirus and eight people had died. In the case of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Public Health England were in the process of contacting people who had come into contact with her. He had spoken to the Speaker of the House of Commons and to the Shadow Secretary of State for Health, and both had accepted the need for a calm and proportionate response; this message of calm should be communicated by colleagues to others in Parliament. The evidence indicated that the infection was passed on through contact of at least 15 minutes at a distance of two metres or less. Unless individuals were symptomatic there was no point in being tested: the test would not work. The key symptoms were a dry cough and a temperature. Without these symptoms, it was highly unlikely that someone was suffering from coronavirus.

Continuing, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE said that he would chair a ministerial meeting that afternoon to agree the contents of the necessary legislation to respond to coronavirus. The aim was to introduce the Bill in the House of Commons the following Thursday and pass it through both Houses of Parliament the week after that. More resources had been provided to testing and to the NHS-111 helpline service. Work was continuing on the interventions designed to slow down the spread of the virus. The first decision, likely to be taken later that week, was to tell people to self-isolate even if they only