

Message

From: DG Capabilities & Resources [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=3b4f83cf39e4464ca61c809db473417e-DG Capabili]
Sent: 01/09/2020 18:02:07
To: Lacey Anna [anna.lacey1@homeoffice.gov.uk]; Permanent Secretary (Submissions) [permanentsecretary.submissions@homeoffice.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** @homeoffice.gov.uk; **NR** **Name Redacted** @homeoffice.gov.uk]
Subject: FW: COMMISSION: COVID-19 and ethnicity - deadline extension

Hello all

Good news below, slight extension to the original deadline, as well as a clarification of the ask.

Best

NR

I&S

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From: top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk <top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> **On Behalf Of** Emran Mian
Sent: 01 September 2020 17:27
To: 'top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk' <top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Cc: **NR** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk; **NR** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk; **NR** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk
<**NR** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; 'DCMS Coronavirus Mailbox' <dcms.coronavirus@dcms.gov.uk>
Subject: COMMISSION: COVID-19 and ethnicity - deadline extension

Dear all,

I hope this finds you well, and thank you to all departments who have already responded so positively on this.

First, I am aware that several departments have asked for an extension. We have therefore decided to delay the initial COVID-O discussion, meaning we can give departments until CoP on Wednesday 9th September to respond to the first and second asks of my commission.

Second, I wanted to send a quick email to clarify how this work links with other work on disproportionate impacts from COVID from Race Disparity Unit (RDU) and the Minister for Equalities, and also any work on wellbeing.

There is no duplication around my first ask (to provide detailed recommendations for COVID-O). These returns should include recommendations across all disproportionately impacted groups, focusing on ethnicity, gender, occupation, men, older and disabled people, and those experiencing socio-economic deprivation. As we have some extra time, we would like recommendations to focus both on mitigating the:

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- **health**
- **impacts on particular groups** (notably ethnic minorities, older people, men, certain occupations, disabled people and those experiencing socio-economic deprivation)
-
-
- **long**
- **term adverse impacts on young people, women, ethnic minority groups and single parents.**
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I am aware there is some overlap between my second ask and a separate commission some departments will have received from RDU (deadline of tomorrow) and some work commissioned last month on mental health and wellbeing. This work is in addition to, and not instead of, those workstrands.

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- The RDU commission
- focuses on the disparities highlighted by the Public Health England Report
- *COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes*,
- with a particular focus on ethnicity as a risk factor.
-
-
- My commission focuses
- on all disproportionately impacted groups as outlined above - including but not limited to ethnic minority groups.
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Where appropriate to provide the same returns you have given to RDU/ mental health and wellbeing commissions as part of your response to my commission, please do so.

Third, a note on research. I suspect departments may wish to include funding for research as part of your recommendations. Following recent discussion with BEIS colleagues, we have agreed that we do not need to include this as a specific recommendation in a COVID-O paper because UKRI has [funding](#) to give organisations money for COVID-19 related research. That is still open and bodies (including departments) can still bid into it for funding. It very much could be used to fund research into COVID and disability and race (and other issues re. disproportionately impacted groups). Links to what they are already funding are [here](#).

Many thanks, hope this clarifies but do reach out to me if not!

Emran



Emran Mian

Director General of Decentralisation and Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Acting Head of Office and Private Secretary

NR

I&S

From: top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk [<mailto:top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>] **On Behalf Of** Emran Mian

Sent: 28 August 2020 15:17

To: 'top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk' <top-200@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk' <[REDACTED] NR [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED] NR [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk' <[REDACTED] NR [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Subject: COMMISSION: COVID-19 and ethnicity

Dear Permanent Secretary colleagues,

Following a very helpful session on Monday in CabSec(O) where we discussed the item on groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, I am delighted to let you know that I have taken up the role of SRO on this issue across Government. I look forward to working with you and your departments in this role.

It was fantastic to hear and see real support for this work in Monday's meeting. We have decided to delay the COVID-O discussion on this item, in order to give departments more time to work up proposals in detail, and to give time for stress-testing the proposals, through a Star Chamber process and engagement with staff networks etc. I have attached the CabSec(O) paper to this email. The data it includes, and the recommendations set out on its penultimate slides, should provide a 'starter for 10' to launch responses to this commission.

I am emailing to commission you and your departments to conduct this work, The deadline for most returns is CoP Thursday 3rd September. However, we are asking for returns on the 3rd ask (for contact details) by CoP Tuesday 1st September. There is such urgency because we expect COVID-O to discuss the matter at its meeting on 10 September.

There are three main asks of departments:

First, for all departments to provide detailed recommendations (with options for high, medium and low ambition packages) for inclusion in the COVID-O paper.

So that Ministers have options to consider, **please work up detailed recommendations, across three tiers of potential response packages (low [minimal spend, quick to action], medium [more resource / spend needed, bigger impact] and high ambition [greater level of resource/ spend needed, but substantially higher potential impact.]).** Returns should also indicate departments' preferred package for recommendation.

Each package should:

- a. Provide specific information about proposed interventions and the problems they intend to address
- b. Provide information about expected costs, including whether these can be met from existing budgets, noting that for the moment these will be ballpark figures
- c. Set out implementation timelines (how quickly could this be brought into force?)
- d. Provide information about interdependencies (e.g. where the proposal requires cross-government collaboration etc.)

One of the recommendations from CabSec (o) was for departments to develop proposals in collaboration with their staff networks, given their expertise and insight on the issues affecting disproportionately impacted groups. I'd therefore be grateful if **departments could ensure staff networks are involved in designing/ cocreating recommendations.**

Second, for each department to provide information on what you are currently doing to address the impacts on disproportionately impacted groups. This will help build a cohesive picture of all of the activity that is happening across government.

Specifically, please could all departments to provide information setting out:

- a. Where this workstream is relevant to your department; and
- b. Work already in train in each department to mitigate impacts on groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Third, in order to coordinate and drive this work across government, please could departments do the following by close of play on Tuesday 1st September:

- a. appoint, and provide details for, a Director/ DG level lead within each department
- b. provide details for staff network contacts also to be invited to meetings
- c. Nominate working level colleagues working on relevant policy areas to join a cross-Government network to drive this agenda forward.

Please provide returns to me (Emran) and copy in [NR] [@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:[NR]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) and [NR] [@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:[NR]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

When returns are in, we will engage with departments and staff networks to consider all proposals in the round before submitting a coherent package of proposals to Ministers.

We will set up a Director/ DG level meeting to interrogate the combined returns from departments for the end of the next week, and will also hold similar meetings with working level contacts and representatives from staff networks. We will confirm this process over the next couple of days.

Please note I have deliberately cast the net wide for this commission. This is because this is a hugely important, and cross-cutting issue, and all departments will have a role to play in tackling this problem.

Best,

Emran



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Emran Mian

Director General of Decentralisation and Growth
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Acting Head of Office and Private Secretary

[NR]

[I&S]

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