

Message

From: [PD] /O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=15FB014E89294AB5B3C88E5918782C8E [Name Redacted]
Sent: 03/03/2020 11:49:02
To: [PD]@hmtreasury.gov.uk]
CC: [PD]@hmtreasury.gov.uk] [PD] - HMT
[PD]@hmtreasury.gov.uk] [PD]@hmtreasury.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Covid-19 Treasury funding per CMO discussion

[PD]

As discussed please see some detail on the below £30m 'fighting fund'. And two potential 'tricky' questions- happy to answer others if you think they will come up.

A £30m 'fighting fund' ready to be used now for rapid R+D response to covid-19 and future emergency situations requiring rapid science input. To be accessed by mutual agreement of the GCSA and CMO. To sit with NIHR, in order to use established mechanisms. The purpose of the fund is so GCSA and CMO can pursue research priorities as needed, at speed. Note this is a draw-down fund; if the money is not needed it will not be spent. Because of this it is not possible to say exactly what the money will be spent on at this stage. However, below are some indicative examples of what it might be spent on.

- Behavioural science research on the reaction of the public to non-pharmaceutical measures to contain/delay/mitigate covid-19 to inform decision making and communication.
- Additional mathematical modelling work of covid-19
- Flexibility on funding of the rapid-response research call NIHR/MRC to ensure we fund all of the possible research that may have a rapid impact or make a material difference in the long-term.
- Rapid screening of therapeutics. This would screen various existing drugs against the virus in vitro, to see if any have potential for further development as therapeutics.
- Practical clinical trials of patients with Covid-19. Enrol patients as diagnosed with Covid-19 into multi-arm trials. Trials could occur on therapeutics and supportive care. The aim would be to provide data early enough in the pandemic in order to inform clinical treatment of the virus.
- Covid-19 Clinical information network (CO-CIN). Funding to record the details of the cases of COVID-19 so we understand how they present clinically.
- Broader research covering other impacts of covid-19 e.g. behavioural science research on understanding behaviour of children/families in an epidemic and how to minimise school spread, or work on public perceptions of the involvement of the police or the military in emergency response
- Support for cross-disciplinary research e.g. combining behavioural science and mathematical modelling to look at patterns of transport in urban areas and impacts of public messaging on minimising social contact
- Other scientific priorities, that require research funding

Why are you only doing this now?

HMG has been taking action as needed in order to ready itself for Covid-19. Research has been activated through existing channels, using pre-ready funding, such as the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Units (HRPUs). Research has also been progressed with the assumption of funding, such as the £20m joint NIHR/UKRI rapid-response research call. This 'fighting fund' enables that preparation as well as providing a flexible contingency fund in order to allow HMGs technical experts to act at speed to fund further research where required.

Why is this money going to research and not frontline operational readiness?

Research is one of the key phases of the response to Covid-19. Since Covid-19 is a novel coronavirus there is less information about it than with other possible outbreaks, it is therefore particularly important that we research it, so we can best respond to it. Operational readiness is clearly important as well and the NHS, and HMG are well prepared. The Coronavirus: action plan announced today (03/03/20) outlines the planned approach.

PD | Private Secretary to the Chief Scientific Adviser & Chief Medical Officer | Department of Health and Social Care | **PD** [@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:pd@dhsc.gov.uk) | T: **I&S** | M: **Personal Data**

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From: **PD** [@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:pd@hmtreasury.gov.uk)
Sent: 02 March 2020 12:41
To: **PD** [@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:pd@dhsc.gov.uk)
Cc: **PD** [@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:pd@hmtreasury.gov.uk); **PD** [@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:pd@hmtreasury.gov.uk); **PD** [@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:pd@hmtreasury.gov.uk)
Subject: RE: Covid-19 Treasury funding per CMO discussion

Hi **PD**

Yes any info you can send over on this would be extremely helpful.

Thanks,

PD

PD Policy Adviser | Health and Social Care Team | **I&S** Public Services Group, 2 Yellow, HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, SW1A 2HQ | www.gov.uk/hm-treasury

From: **PD** [@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:pd@hmtreasury.gov.uk)
Sent: 02 March 2020 12:24
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Subject: RE: Covid-19 Treasury funding per CMO discussion

Hi **PD**

Copying **Name Redacted** who can help with this.

PD

From: **PD** [@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:pd@dhsc.gov.uk)
Sent: 02 March 2020 11:10
To: **PD** [@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:pd@hmtreasury.gov.uk)
Subject: Covid-19 Treasury funding per CMO discussion

PD

My understanding is that following a discussion between CMO, GCSA and CX that a discrete amount of money (£30million) was going to be made available (announced in budget?) for Covid-19, mainly in relation to research. Is that also your understanding?

Would it be useful for me to provide an indicative breakdown of what it will be spent on?

PD

PD

Private Secretary to the Chief Scientific Adviser & Chief Medical Officer | Department of Health and

Social Care

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