

be followed through. Not necessarily as a result of **NR** doing but the Political context in England and the DHSC being given clear instruction to allocate what now transpires to be only 5000 Roche COVID-19 tests for the whole of the UK and that they'd need to do some sort of triage as to who gets what(!).

Various discussions have taken place during the day following this including **NR** speaking with Roche this afternoon. It is clear that they have no plan to come to Wales to configure our equipment in Magden Park any time soon, as had been previously confirmed by them in the email exchange last week, and that they are being instructed by DHSC and following those instructions.

It is also important to note that Cath O'Brien has confirmed this evening that the WBS piece of equipment has not left their lab to go to Porton Down yet and she has put a hold on it moving anywhere until we confirm otherwise.

3 Current Testing Capacity

In the absence of the Roche 5000 tests per day from the beginning of April, our testing capacity is substantially limited if not other solutions materialise. Currently, we are doing 500 tests/day and that is meeting demand. We hope to go up to 800/day from Thursday with additional reagents for another one of our systems and the possibility to increase to 1100/day if we go to 24 hours (we do have some COVID related staff challenges at the moment which may impact on this). From the first week in April we can increase to around a total of 2500/day, due to additional equipment arriving into Rhyl and Swansea, and that would be around 3000 -3500/day if we are running 24/7.

4 Summary and Suggested Approach

a) It is clear that the situation is rather chaotic and that agreements that have been made are not being honoured and with the Political environment we cannot be assured that other commitments will be met. The UK Government has clearly prioritised the use of a company's testing for the purposes of England's allocation despite us having had advanced discussions with Roche and an email confirmation (attached).

b) We would want to be doing around 11,000 tests/day from April made up of our own current testing + Roche 5000 with our equipment + Amazon 5800 capacity (we were told that we would get around 1/17th of the 100,000 total UK tests = 5,800/day although nothing received in writing). Therefore, either by a combination of Roche tests and/or Amazon-Boots tests, we would need a guarantee that our original assumption of an additional 11000 tests from April will be made.

c) Until such time that we have a guarantee of the additional 11,000 test capacity, as in b0 above, **we should retain** all feasible equipment in Wales that can be programmed for COVID19 diagnostics in whatever format the testing is. This includes the WBS equipment and we will be discussing the same with Universities in Wales through tomorrow. This is extremely important while we rapidly explore with other companies the feasibility of using a different company for current tests and creating large scale testing capacity within Wales using all of the equipment assets that exist. Rob, Quentin and I also discussed rapidly exploring any potential for a Wales agreement for point of care testing and/or antigen testing – my understanding is that neither of these are currently ready as products. Relying on a fair allocation of the PHE antigen serology developments may not be guaranteed given the UK Government and DHSC approach to the current testing issue with Roche. These may not be possible but all options need to be explored.

d) We will reconvene Monday afternoon to gauge the outputs of the discussions of the day and discuss a more innovative approach to a 'Testing' Strategy.

I hope that is helpful and provides a steer going in to any discussions tomorrow.

Best wishes,
Tracey