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**Cc:** 'Peter Just' <[peter.just@rcslt.org](mailto:peter.just@rcslt.org)>; [NR] <[\[redacted\]@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk)>;  
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**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: High Risk AGP panel

Dear [NR],

Thank you for your prompt reply to my letter to the Chair of the AGP panel. Whilst I appreciate you have replied on behalf of the panel, that is not good enough. This morning, listening to the BBC Radio 4 Today programme, I was struck by SAGE scientists and others describing how they have all had to conduct their research in a new and faster manner along with regulatory bodies. This has apparently been combined with a greater willingness to demonstrate openness. Members of the AGP Alliance whom I represent are astonished and dismayed by the slowness of the response of the AGP Panel to the pressing need for revised advice. With almost 20,000 patients in hospital with Covid-19, and a large number of these receiving nasogastric feeding provided by doctors, nurses, dietitians and speech & language therapists, often in patients requiring extensive chest physiotherapy, the risks to our members and the patients as yet uninfected in hospitals and beyond could not be greater.

Therefore, we find your bland statement that the findings will be published sometime in January- possibly the 31<sup>st</sup> or 40 days' time (or 84 days from when you indicated deliberations were being finalised) to be completely unacceptable. Furthermore, we were given assurances that the minutes of your meetings would be published but none are evident on the website as yet. Why has it taken so long for any output from this panel when other scientific groups seem to be able to respond to the changing situation so much quicker? This failure to reflect the urgency of the matter may be reflected in greater mortality and morbidity which could have been avoided by a more expeditious response.

We look forward to a more helpful response at the earliest opportunity and this should be from the chair of the panel as a matter of professional courtesy.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr Barry Jones  
Chair of AGP Alliance

**From:** AGPpanel <[AGPpanel@phe.gov.uk](mailto:AGPpanel@phe.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 21 December 2020 18:17

[See recipients listed above]

**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: High Risk AGP panel

Dear Dr Jones,