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Sent:	13/05/2020 21:42:03
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Subject:	FW: Vaccines responsibilities and taskforce [OFFICIAL]
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	lay 2020 19:57
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Dear Jacqui and Natasha,

I just wanted to formalise in one place what we have both discussed on vaccines responsibilities, and to readout and pick up on next steps from a meeting that the PM had today with Kate Bingham.

Alongside the appointment of Kate Bingham as chair of the vaccines taskforce (which will report to him, and which we hope to formally announce in the next few days), the Prime Minister has asked the Business Secretary to take the overall Ministerial lead on Vaccines Strategy, so that there is a single departmental lead responsible for getting a successful vaccine over the line, and in particular because the most pressing and immediate challenges are on the R&D and manufacturing capability - which is a natural BEIS responsibility.

The PM has asked that the Vaccines Taskforce aims to ensure that there is a vaccine that can bring the pandemic to a close as quickly as possible for the entire population of the globe. He has a profound and deep rooted aim that the world be immunised as quickly as possible. The UK must be at the front of the pack in developing and benefitting from such a vaccine. As such the work of the taskforce should be on R&D; building manufacturing capability (plus fill and finish), for the range of vaccine technologies. As well as looking at UK technology, the work will need to ensure that the UK has a stake in and access to a spread of vaccine technologies, including through direct deals with companies and through sponsorship of CEPI and Gavi. In addition to securing access to a vaccine the work should also ensure that the UK builds permanent manufacturing capability for the longer-term. It would also cover antibody therapy given the synergy with vaccine development.