

application for funding to UKRI, VMIC was established, some staff were in place and by 2020 plans were being made to build the manufacturing facility, which would be capable of manufacturing multiple vaccine technologies.

56. In February 2020 I visited the VMIC staff along with two senior staff from CBF to request assistance with planning the manufacturing of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine, which was then received. Funding for VMIC was increased and the facility was built, but before being used, was then sold.

57. The UK has no national capability in vaccine manufacturing, which VMIC would have provided. The CBF at the University of Oxford can currently only work on one vaccine manufacture at a time, and does not have space to take on all of the requests for work that are received. VMIC would have provided much more capability and could have produced much large numbers of doses of vaccines, which in some cases could be sufficient to respond to an outbreak without any other manufacturer being required. VMIC was set up to manufacture multiple types of vaccines (including viral vectored vaccines, recombinant protein and virus-like particles as well as mRNA) and could have supported the development of many vaccines outside of outbreaks or pandemics. The CBF has an excellent track record in successfully completing the first manufacture of a novel vaccines, including developing all of the tests that are required for regulatory submissions. However only small volumes of vaccines can be manufactured at CBF. The intention behind setting up VMIC was in part that virus seed stocks, manufacturing processes and testing protocols initially developed at CBF could be transferred to VMIC for larger scale manufacture. In addition, VMIC would have been able to work directly with other vaccine researchers in the UK.

58. Without VMIC, the only option is to use contract manufacturing organisations.

Transferring all of the necessary expertise for the manufacture of a novel vaccine can be a lengthy process, (months or sometimes years) and most academic groups do not have the required expertise to do this.

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (“CEPI”)

59. I had applied to CEPI, along with Janssen vaccines, in 2017 and we were funded to work on the development of vaccines against MERS (continuing work started with UK funding) Nipah and Lassa. In early 2020 I sought funding from CEPI for ChAdOx1 nCoV-19. I spoke with them on January 29th, and visited their London office of Feb 7th. CEPI put out a call for proposals for rapid response against the novel coronavirus, to which I applied: see