



T: Irrelevant & Sensitive
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
By e-mail

31st January 2021

Dear Matt

4 Nations Agreement on Publication of Vaccine Supply Data

Following on from our productive discussion on Thursday on how information on current vaccine supply to date could be made available in a transparent way to the public in order to underpin confidence in the vaccination programmes in the 4 nations, I was pleased that a consensus was reached on the need to address this situation.

In recent weeks devolved administrations have been put in the untenable position of being unable to share this data at the request of the Vaccine Taskforce – but at the same time see these figures be briefed to the media and, apparently, to elected representatives of the Conservative party.

Such ‘source’ briefing totally undermines the suggestion that the data must be withheld from public view for commercial in confidence reasons. That’s why, despite assurances from yourself and from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, I was surprised and disappointed to see the Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack give supply figures in an interview with BBC Scotland this morning. You may wish to be aware that members of the media have extrapolated the supply figures in the nations, and the profile of the increase in supply based on the figures Mr Jack supplied.

I understand that the Secretary of State for Scotland was on the call yesterday with the First Ministers where the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave his assurance that such briefing of figures would end. During the First Ministers’ call there was a repeat of the consensus we reached and agreement to remit this issue to health ministers to find a consistent solution.

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