

2020.03.20 - Meeting Readout - Daily Procurement Meeting

1. Introduction

Steve Oldfield said he is happy for procurement teams to help in anyway they can. This won't just be procurement work, but more than that i.e. research, etc. Lord Agnew confirmed he is happy. Cabinet Office need problems, we will try to solve them.

Emily Lawson confirmed that she very much appreciates the support that has been offered by Cabinet Office. This is particularly important around PPE. Emily said it would be good to reflect on structures and then look ahead on capacity.

Action: Emily to review structure for allocation of commercial teams and report on this by next Wednesday's meeting.

Lord Agnew stressed need to predict questions.

Matt Hancock added that we need to properly onboard Cabinet Office people into the DHSC/NHS structure. Key thing we need is resources and to avoid any overly complicated structures. Stressed that the main purpose of Cabinet Office role is to bring extra resource.

On organisation, Steve added that Emily has taken overall lead on Oxygen and Ventilators, with Gareth leading on ventilation challenge and Steve's team looking at buying kit.

1. Ventilator update.

Gareth updated on the ventilator situation. We now have three streams of work. One is buying (emily). Two is engineering groups who have started from scratch to building 30,000 ventilators within two weeks ideally. These are untested but should be able to be mad quickly. 17 designs reduced to 6 on Tuesday. We are reviewing these again over weekend. Third group is existing manufacturers who make ventilators at small volume, but supporting them to scale-up.

GCF hadn't detected some of those in the third group. These had fallen off NHS lists as their licenses weren't current. Now looking at 10 products which they could scale-up. Once you aggregate demand they say they can do, it looks very good in terms fo 30,000.

As of today, Gareth is most optimistic he's been all week.

Matt Hancock said that James Dyson had been in touch, complaining about speed. His design had not been one of the better reviewed products.

Action: Make sure Dyson gets clear feedback on what they need to do to advance their ventilator design.

Action: Gareth to be ready to make more than 30,000 if needed.

2. Priority PPE Update (Melinda Johnson)

Commercial teams are forming secondary PPE teams to look at brand-new suppliers (i.e. ones not yet used by NHS supply chains). Sourcing these PPE from around the world. 'Augment' workstream.