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By email to:
rachel.reeves.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Rachel,

In my letter to you of 22 April, I committed to addressing the specific questions you had raised regarding PPE supply in your letters of 18 and 22 April. As I noted previously, it is the Department of Health and Social Care which leads overall on PPE supply. Nonetheless, I hope the following information will be helpful to you.

First, and most importantly, the Government has set up clear routes for businesses to use if they want to help with the response to COVID-19, and we encourage all potential offers to be directed to the following webform: gov.uk/coronavirus-support-from-business. If businesses use this webform, it ensures that their offer is entered into our system effectively and allows the appropriate team to take it forward. As you would expect, all offers are triaged by officials and we are focusing on prioritising those which can deliver significant quantities of high-quality equipment to the health and care sector.

The response to help with the national effort against this pandemic has been overwhelming, and I am sure you will join me in commending the extraordinary efforts of British businesses and individuals. We have received an enormous volume of offers of support relating to PPE, totalling 10,579 offers as of 28 April. This includes domestic and international purchase and manufacture opportunities, as well as offers to support the distribution of PPE to NHS trusts across the UK.

The annex to your letter of 22 April listed 35 companies or individuals which you suggested "have the capacity to manufacture Personal Protective Equipment and have contacted the government to offer to do so". Unfortunately, we had no record of contact via our webform or Ministerial correspondence teams, either in the Cabinet Office or Department of Health and Social Care, from 17 of those you listed. Of the remaining 18 which had made contact with the Government, we are already contracting with one of these companies, and six are currently under review. Officials have now sought to contact every company on your list to discuss any potential offer. In relation to Unique Disposables, which you mention in your letter, but which does not appear in your annex, we have investigated and have no record of this company on our systems.