

Message

From: max.cairnduff@cabinetoffice.gov.uk [max.cairnduff@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
on behalf of Covid PPE Priority Appraisals Mailbox <covid-ppe-priority-appraisals@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> [covid-ppe-priority-appraisals@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Sent: 04/04/2020 09:05:34
To: [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
CC: [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND & NHS.IMPROVEMENT.T1520); [REDACTED]@nhs.net; Hannah Bolton [hannah.bolton@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
Subject: Re: David Meller - Mask FFP3 valved 9332+

It's being looked at today. The difficulty is, while I'm sure Mr Meller will be legitimate, we have had a great many individuals introduce themselves as ministerial contacts and unfortunately some of them are not genuine (or are, but their suppliers aren't and are taking advantage of them). We do appreciate we need to move swiftly, but we also need to check as the disingenuous ones are very good at mimicking those genuinely keen to help.

The other issue is that a lot of well meaning offers turn out to be kit which doesn't meet the necessary specifications, so we do have to check the offers fairly carefully. Mr Meller's offer of masks is now through that process but from his perception that will have been part of the delay. That stage of checking is essential though as otherwise we risk clogging the logistics system with kit that can't actually be used as intended.

Best,

Max

On Sat, 4 Apr 2020 at 09:47, [REDACTED]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Very helpful Max. Can you let me know how long the appraisal will take? I think, from his perspective, there is frustration because he feels he is offering help and we're not snapping his hands off (i don't know the precise detail but putting myself in his shoes).

[REDACTED]

On Sat, 4 Apr 2020 at 09:11, Covid PPE Priority Appraisals Mailbox <covid-ppe-priority-appraisals@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

[REDACTED]

I understand you're both being chased by a Mr David Meller of Meller Designs for updates on his offer of masks.

Mr Meller is presently in our payment process. There's been multiple conversations with Mr Meller which are ongoing but he keeps separately contacting private offices even while conversations with our team are continuing. Unfortunately that mean's he's generating a lot of noise in the system.

There's presently a final validation check being done on him. Depending on the outcome of that check, the payment for the first shipment of masks should flow fairly shortly. Please do not mention that validation check to him or anyone else.

If he contacts either of you again please direct him to this mailbox. Going through multiple routes is actually slowing things as we need to respond to each of the points of contact, it's not speeding them up (this is the third separate enquiry I've received about Mr Meller since yesterday evening).