resilience. We will also need to work closely with DIT on this and I am catching up with Martin Kent regularly and suggest that he, Anna and I work together to ensure this section reflects the various departmental interests of each product strategy (stockpile (DHSC), UK make (BEIS) and diverse international supply (DIT)).

My team is currently evaluating the economic viability and broader desirability of UK manufacture (as part of wider supply resilience approach) and how Government would support this. There are a number of aspects to this work that are currently in progress:

- product strategies and analysis of the costs and benefits of UK manufacture;
- what form Government support should take, including any necessary support for UK involvement in upstream and downstream parts of the supply chain (e.g. polymers);
- the role that regional supply to local/regional markets would have, including existing regional structures and different regional approaches. This is with input from LEPs, Growth Hub and MHCLG;
- innovation - including new designs of PPE that are more readily reused and/or recycled, as well as ensuring the UK framework keeps pace with emerging technology developments and supports their entry into the NHS.

My team have greatly benefited from Gary Horsfield's input to develop an analytical framework which aims to guide category leads to think consistently about the pros and cons of different supply approaches (UK make, buy, stockpile) in their category strategies work. That went to the category leads last week, and we are starting follow-up conversations with some of them this week. We are also talking to Gary, NR Andy Wood and colleagues from 4C to make sure we're integrating this with related work they are supporting. We are all keen to make use of the expertise of the leads before any of them move on.

We will use the category leads analysis, and work with Government colleagues to look across the landscape of PPE and assess where we think government support might be necessary to ensure some UK supply of certain categories of PPE, and if so, how we might support it. Our aim is for this work to slot into the DHSC-led work on the overall strategy by the end of next month.

The precise nature of support will depend on the circumstances of each product category. We are thinking of the kinds of things seen in other parts of the industrial strategy (e.g. grants/loans for set-up costs, innovation support, investment tax subsidy) as well as contractual options such as retainers and priority contracting.

As part of our work I'm keen that we engage business representative organisations. I propose to build on the bilateral discussions I have been having and bring together an informal working group made up of representatives from MakeUK, CBI and ABHI. The aim would be to test our developing thinking with the caveat that decisions will ultimately need to be made/signed off at a ministerial level. It would also be a helpful vehicle for keeping these organisations and their members on side.

We are planning to complete the analysis work and the product/material strategies by the end of July. This would align with the timing as I understand it for Anna's work. I am also keeping my Secretary of State up to speed with the work as it develops. My sense at the moment is that he will be comfortable with a contribution to the overall PPE strategy but we will need to keep open the option of some sort of industrial strategy branded document. This is likely to depend on the size of the market and the extent of any government support.

Very happy to discuss any thoughts on this at an appropriate time or please let know by email if there is any of this that is off track or that we might be missing. I have copied in Jonathan Names Redacted