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**From:** **NR** [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E7567BC572E547548B381BCC13982578 **NR** 0769196]  
**Sent:** 15/05/2020 17:02:32  
**To:** DoH Private Office [private.office@health-ni.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** SUB-1409-2020 - 4 Nations PPE Procurement

**NR**

Need to keep this as a record of decision by Minister

**NR**

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**From:** Gallagher, Sharon  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 16:54  
**To:** DoH Minister <minister@health-ni.gov.uk>; Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** **NR** @health-ni.gov.uk; McNeilly, Deborah <Deborah.McNeilly@health-ni.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: 4 Nations PPE Procurement

Thank you Minister.  
Sharon

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**From:** DoH Minister  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 16:37  
**To:** Gallagher, Sharon <[Sharon.Gallagher@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Gallagher@health-ni.gov.uk)>; Pengelly, Richard <[Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** **NR** @health-ni.gov.uk; McNeilly, Deborah <[Deborah.McNeilly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.McNeilly@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: 4 Nations PPE Procurement

I'm content to support below response.

regards,

Robin Swann MLA  
Minister of Health

C5.10, Castle Buildings,  
Stormont.

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**From:** Gallagher, Sharon  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 16:26  
**To:** DoH Minister <[minister@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:minister@health-ni.gov.uk)>; Pengelly, Richard <[Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** **NR** @health-ni.gov.uk; McNeilly, Deborah <[Deborah.McNeilly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.McNeilly@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** 4 Nations PPE Procurement

Minister/Richard,  
We have spoken before about challenges in implementing the 4 Nations protocol on PPE not least in retrofitting to take account of expenditure incurred to date.  
7bn has been allocated to DHSC for PPE procurement across the UK. The UK funding arrangement is attached but leaves more questions than provides answers.  
In discussion with other DAs this afternoon we agreed the approach below (highlighted) to feed back to DHSC.  
I've spoken to Deborah and DoF(Joanne McBurney) who are supportive.

Are you content we respond to DHSC along lines below?

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**From:** [Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot](mailto:Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot) [<mailto:Jamie.MacDougall@gov.scot>]  
**Sent:** 15 May 2020 15:58  
**To:** [redacted] [NR@gov.wales](mailto:NR@gov.wales); Gallagher, Sharon <[Sharon.Gallagher@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Sharon.Gallagher@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [NR@gov.scot](mailto:NR@gov.scot); [redacted] [NR@gov.scot](mailto:NR@gov.scot); [Paul.Cackette@gov.scot](mailto:Paul.Cackette@gov.scot); [Richard.McCallum@gov.scot](mailto:Richard.McCallum@gov.scot); [Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot](mailto:Douglas.McLaren@gov.scot); [redacted] [NR@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:NR@health-ni.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** 4 Nations PPE Procurement

David, Sharon

We discussed how we should respond to the letter from DHSC which is looking for our views on a proposed 4 nations approach where DHSC would manage a PPE fund on behalf of all 4 nations. The rationale for this is that HMT believes it to be the most efficient way to procure PPE.

In discussion, we agreed that the principle of a 4 nations approach is sensible. However, experience of how this has worked during the Covid-19 emergency is that each of the 4 nations has had to set up its own supply lines and that there has been a lack of transparency about procurement decisions taken by DHSC on behalf of UK nations. This include a reported £1.2bn deal for masks to which Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were not sighted. Additionally, there has been policy divergence across the 4 nations, such as different sectors being supplied and different charging models. This means that it is becoming increasingly difficult to see how the funding could be distributed equitably for expenditure already incurred.

We agreed that we would contact our finance colleagues to suggest that we should revert to a standard consequentials approach. This would mean that each of the devolved administrations would receive its share of the PPE fund. We would reaffirm our commitment to the 4 nations approach and suggest that a better way to manage that would be to form a new 4 Nations PPE Procurement Group. Each administration would be an equal partner in this group and its remit would be to plan future PPE expenditure. Where the PPE requirement of each nation overlap, this group could secure better value contracts. Where policies approaches have diverged, it would enable each nation to put in place local solutions either unilaterally or with one or more of the other nations.

Many thanks  
Jamie

**Jamie MacDougall** | Deputy Director Health and Social Care PPE | PPE Directorate | Scottish Government | Mobile: [redacted] I&S | email: [jamie.macdougall@gov.scot](mailto:jamie.macdougall@gov.scot)

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