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James Bethell 17 Apr 2020 10:48 AM +00:00

We have received 5,000 enquiries in the last two weeks from companies. We have a huge team at BSA handling them. We have engaged with many and have spent £100ms with UK companies which meet our brief.

But many companies are offering tests which are not relevant for our battleplan.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day>

do not meet our standards. I appreciated many are frustrated, but we do have high standards and it is reasonable to apply these to protect the British people.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19-tests-and-testing-kits>

And many of the labs that are offering services do not have the correct validation, the right safety environment or access to reagents (and if they get them, it means taking them out of a very constrained supply chain).

This is a difficult message to deliver. We are not closed to new ideas, but we are drowning in helpful suggestions while at the same time being very focused about delivering some very tough deliverables. If there are any stand-out companies that you really think we're missing, do pls email me (lordbethell@dhsc.org.uk) and I have a fast-track process. But also please be aware that there might be strong clinical or practical reasons why we cannot take up every offer for help.



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Anthony Browne 17 Apr 2020 12:45 PM +00:00

Thanks James very helpful for managing expectations.

FM

Flick Drummond MP 17 Apr 2020 11:03 AM +00:00

Thank you. I am getting increasing numbers of emails on this and while I know what we are doing etc as I read all the briefings, constituents are reading various newspaper articles which they are kindly sharing with me ♦ so this is very helpful. Another one from the Guardian article about the fact that labs are there waiting to test but not enough people sending in their swabs. Thank you for all that you are doing.