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16 April 2020

Dear Colleagues

**International Procurement of Medical Supplies to Support a UK Wide Response
to Covid-19**

Thank you to your officials for taking part in the 4 Nations meeting on Thursday (09/04) to discuss international procurement efforts. As discussed on the call, UK Embassies have now been instructed to work on a single UK 'ask' on international procurement (which will include the needs of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). A focussed UK ask to other Governments, coordinated in advance, is the best way to obtain a supply of goods that can support the needs of the whole of the UK. The approach reflects the UK Government's wider commitment to a UK wide approach in our response to Covid-19.

To enable maximum focus on procurement of supplies to be distributed UK-wide, the Joint Action Coordination Team (JACT) (DIT/FCO) have, on the advice of Ministers, advised the overseas network not to undertake additional work to support any new procurement 'asks'. However, they stand ready to support any existing orders that have already been placed.

For a collective, UK wide approach, to be successful we understand that it will be critical for the needs of the Devolved Administrations to be accurately captured. To avoid the need for further data requests, the data already being collated by DHSC will be used to inform our asks of the JACT and overseas network so they can target their procurement efforts to best effect.