

### **Note on Industrializing UK Testing – to support the PM Slide-deck**

1. Testing is a fundamental part of the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic. However, testing capacity is currently limited due to the availability of supplies, driven by international competition, system capacity to administer and process tests and the availability of specialist staff.
2. We are taking urgent steps to address these issues and increase our testing capacity, including
  - i. Working directly with major suppliers to understand key supply constraints, through the team being led by Dr Sam Roberts in NHSE;
  - ii. Standing-up a new rapid review process, under Sam Roberts and John Bell, to review and identify viable new testing solutions; and
  - iii. Agreeing a rapid procurement model that allows us to purchase promising testing solutions and supplies as soon as they become available
3. **However, we need to go further to industrialise our testing response and ensure that we:**
  - i. **Secure our supply** - specifically through engagement with the major diagnostics firms (Abbott, Roche, Hologic, Cepheid, TF, Qiagen). The PM is calling these key companies to discuss our specific asks, but broadly we need to a) ensure our immediate supply of testing and reagent kits under fair global allocations, and the rapid installation of ordered test kits and platforms; b) increase our domestic manufacturing under license and c) invest in diagnostic capacity and capability in the United Kingdom in a sustainable manner;
  - ii. **Boost our own national capacity** ~~through cash incentive schemes. The range of policy options would include:~~ ~~This would include significant funding to~~ a) provide cash prizes for innovators who develop viable new testing solutions, including targeted prizes for new antibody tests; b) support manufacturers in other sectors to convert equipment and technology to boost covid testing capacity; c) support smaller manufacturers to scale their production; iv) support firms 'at risk' to ensure continuity of supply; and v) provide incentives for global firms to work with smaller suppliers to boost their own capacity and to base manufacturing operations within the UK;
  - iii. **Develop our understanding of demand.** Modelling is at a very early stage and "1m tests per day" may therefore be an underestimate of our true future need. This makes it even more important to nail down the forecasting, and develop a tailored British response, with its own scientific insight and to secure domestic production of necessary materials;
  - iv. **Creating stronger scientific leadership.** This includes pooling and aligning our considerable British scientific expertise to address key questions, the right international networks to collaborate with global experts and the commercial disciplines to turn science into products, policy and investment; and
  - v. **Improve testing delivery.** We are implementing this programme from scratch and will need to monitor and refine our models for at-home testing, carpark testing, repurposing existing kits for different uses. As well as how data is recorded and shared with the NHS and PHE, which will support future understanding and modelling of the disease.

**We would recommend that bottoming out this plan should be the focus for the Prime Minister's engagement with industry during the coming week.**