

From the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health

Simon Harris
Minister for Health

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Dear Simon

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Both Robin and I would like to thank you for your commitment to help secure a collaborative order for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

We appreciate the efforts of your officials who have been working with our procurement staff in securing a joint order through your Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

It would appear, however, that over the last week, market conditions in China have become increasing difficult as other countries have increased their demands on this essential equipment.

We understand that IDA has no further capacity to pursue the collaborative order. As such, we are now exploring using Invest NI and our Executive Office's China Bureau to secure orders. We would be keen to understand if the logistics you have in place with Aer Lingus could be used to transport any products secured through this new route.

We are also aware of the orders which are arriving into Dublin from China for the HSE and as previously discussed, we would welcome an urgent consignment of items which we would endeavour to return once our stock arrives.

We are committed to a combined effort and, would also be keen to work collaboratively on building capacity here particularly given our joint manufacturing capability.