

Message

**From:** Emran Mian [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1AC4429703CC49D2A6C590A79EE2E555-EMRAN.MIAN]  
**Sent:** 08/10/2020 10:57:34 AM  
**To:** C-19 Secretariat Mailbox [c-19.secretariat@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Emma Ward [Emma.Ward@dft.gov.uk]; CM Gold Policy [CM.GoldPolicy@dft.gov.uk]; anna.sanders@governmentlegal.gov.uk; Andrew.mitchell@trade.gov.uk; McNally, Shaun (LAA) [Shaun.McNally@justice.gov.uk]; SMITH, Lucy [lucy.smith@education.gov.uk]; Sebastian.Catovsky@defra.gov.uk; Ismail, Alison [Alison.Ismail@defra.gov.uk]; jane.whittaker@hmrc.gov.uk; lucy.pink@hmrc.gov.uk; cerys.mcdonald@hmrc.gov.uk; penny.ciniewicz@hmrc.gov.uk; ruth.stanier@hmrc.gov.uk; Shanmugalingam, Jo (DG ISSI) [Jo.Shanmugalingam@beis.gov.uk]; **NR** @fcdo.gov.uk; **NR** @fcdo.gov.uk; **NR** @dwp.gov.uk; Helen.Helliwell636@mod.gov.uk; DG Markets and Supply Chains [DGMarketsandsupplychains@trade.gov.uk]; York-Smith, Dan - HMT [dan.york-smith@hmtreasury.gov.uk]; Young Sue [Sue.Young25@homeoffice.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** @hmtreasury.gov.uk; Furse, Alex - HMT [Alex.Furse@hmtreasury.gov.uk]; Marcus Bell [marcus.bell@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]  
**CC:** **Name Redacted** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk; sarah.baker@cabinetoffice.gov.uk; **Name Redacted** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk; **Name** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk; **NR** @cabinetoffice.gov.uk; michael.livingston [michael.livingston@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Oliver Ilott [oliver.ilott@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Emma Payne [emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Cathy Francis [cathy.francis@communities.gov.uk]; **NR** @communities.gov.uk; Julia Sweeney [julia.sweeney@communities.gov.uk]; **Name Redacted** @communities.gov.uk; Catherine Frances [catherine.frances@communities.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** COMMISSION: COVID and disproportionately impacted groups  
**Attachments:** OS -08102020 - Funding for interventions for disproportionately impacted groups (1).xlsx; 2020-09-29 - PM Briefing disproportionately impacted groups (1).pptx

Dear all

Thank you for the returns that you submitted ahead of last month's COVID (O) discussion on disproportionately impacted groups. We briefed the PM yesterday on the impacts COVID is having on certain ethnic minority groups. Within a broader context of rising cases, we continue to see significantly steeper rises among certain ethnic groups, e.g. British Pakistanis. You can see the latest trends in the data dashboard which I know many of you have access to. A snapshot is attached.

We talked the PM through the measures recently agreed at COVID (O). The PM asked for the proposals agreed to be implemented at pace and, given the data, for new proposals to demonstrate greater ambition. He wishes to make an announcement this month.

To meet this direction from the PM, I need your help. The measures we have identified through previous commissions are, in many cases, not specific enough for announcement and do not demonstrate the appropriate ambition. **Can I ask you to please to look again at your returns and also consider the following specific proposals?**

- Can we mandate that all businesses with more than 50 employees publish a statement about the risk assessments they have undertaken? If you advise against this proposal specifically then please provide an alternative. **(BEIS)**
- Can we provide alternative accommodation to allow individuals living in multi-generational homes or cramped living conditions to self-isolate, and what are the public health grounds to consider in extending this to ethnic minorities with no recourse to public funds? **(MHCLG)**
- Can we supplement self-isolation payments to allow individuals to secure such accommodation for themselves (subject to proof that the need exists)? **(DHSC)**
- Can DHSC set up an urgent discussion today/ tomorrow with Local Directors of Public Health to learn about what has worked in their local areas to tackle these issues, and

consider urgently whether any of these local interventions could be scaled nationally? **(DHSC)**

- On focus groups and polling evidence, please can departments and CO Comms Hub specify what polling you already have, any boosting you can do and any focus groups that can be held with disproportionately impacted groups prior to or alongside announcement. **(CO Comms Hub + All Depts)**
- What targeted communications to disproportionately impacted groups can we create, boost or enhance to support these measures? We will need specific examples and a schedule of proposed comms including proposals for senior Ministerial/PM involvement. **(CO Comms Hub working with all departments)**
- What specific commitments can we make on boosting access to testing for those in disproportionately impacted groups? We will need a plan to boost access with specifics on how testing will be channelled and delivered. **(DHSC - NHS Test and Trace)**.
- Can we include ethnicity as a risk factor in the testing system to help ensure that groups of people who are more exposed to Covid-19, are able to access testing first **(DHSC)**
- Building on the Community Champions proposal, can we provide specific funding to local charities/support groups who provide outreach support to particular groups. **(MHCLG/DCMS)**
- Can we provide an emergency health funding package to help local authorities implement Local Outbreak Management Plans using community-based approaches? **(DHSC)**
- Can we look to increase access to hospital treatment through targeted healthcare messaging to encourage vulnerable populations to seek healthcare in a timely manner and consider suspending charging **(DHSC)**.
- Can we intensify our interventions in universities in target areas, in particular in local lockdown areas where we know a lot of students live at home in multi-generational families **(DfE)**.

The deadline for returns is **midday on Monday. We may be working towards an announcement during next week**, so we will only get one shot at getting the right level of ambition and specificity. **Please confirm receipt of this email by 1pm.** You may want to be in touch with your existing contact in the Race Disparity Unit while preparing your return. I have attached the previous funding spreadsheets which departments should use to work through any funding requirements. Please note that all departments should consider the communications implications/ requirements for each of these recommendations, and ensure they work with departmental comms teams and/or CO Comms to ensure this is reflected in your returns. We will review the returns and then work with the Secretariat to identify the best route to collective agreement: either a COVID O meeting next week or by write-round.

### The Next Phase of Work

While the immediate focus is on the impacts experienced by ethnic minorities, in the discussion with the PM we committed to future work on impacts experienced by other groups, as well as longer-term impacts. To set up this next phase of work CDL and the Minister for Disabled People have asked for action on the issues below. **We will set up a meeting in w/c 19 October with key departments. It would be helpful if you could consider these questions, alongside other areas to prioritise, in advance of our discussion.**

- Data: Improving data collected on disabled people by ONS, which should include a breakdown of types of impairment associated with
  - an increased risk of infection from COVID-19 and
  - an increase in the risk of poorer outcomes from COVID-19 (e.g. death). **(DU / DHSC)**