

- d) the precise numbers of inspections expected in October and November that year was not possible to predict. As 50 per cent of inspections were risk based, and triggered when issues were raised in a particular care home; there were around 50 - 100 of this type of inspections per week;
- e) there were approximately 15,000 care homes in total in England, so the coverage of the Care Quality Commission's inspections was limited;
- f) the Care Quality Commissions and the Department for Health and Social Care were sharing the available data in order to support the enforcement effort;
- g) the preference of the Care Quality Commissions was for inspections to be no notice, but this was a judgement call depending on the circumstances. Standard practice was that all risk based inspections were announced at the point an inspector arrived on the premises. However, for Infection Prevention and Control inspections, care homes were given 24 hours notice in order to ensure an appropriate manager would be available;
- h) in response to any issues identified by the inspection, the Care Quality Commissions was able to take a number of remedial actions: issue warning notices, fixed penalty notices, civil and criminal enforcement action, including preventing new admissions into a care home or shutting down the care home. Previous experience had been that a warning notice was often sufficient to modify behaviour, and therefore the Care Quality Commissions had rarely chosen to close down services;
- i) there had been 696 breaches of regulations identified since the start of the pandemic. The most common breaches were to regulation 12, which was the regulation around safe care and treatment and implied providers were not correctly identifying and responding to any changes in care needs, and regulation 17, which denoted insufficient governance quality;
- j) the Care Quality Commissions had revised their inspection framework in October to increase the focus on homes' ability to zone and cohort, their ventilation, staffing levels and movement. Infection Prevention and Control inspections considered whether homes were paying staff to self isolate and preventing staff movement. If concerns were raised, care homes would not be