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**THE CABINET OFFICE**  
LONDON SW1A 2AS

*From the Cabinet Secretary*

Lord Deighton

*Dear Paul*

12 May 2020

**PPE TASKFORCE**

I am delighted that you have agreed to lead the PPE Taskforce, continuing the work you have been doing to drive progress in the cross-government PPE effort thus far.

The Taskforce will oversee all aspects of PPE supply and distribution across the UK. This includes PPE for health, social care and relevant public sector settings where there is recognised clinical need. The Taskforce will provide strategic oversight of the existing HMG PPE governance structures, and its focus will be on practical delivery. It will be directly responsible for buying sufficient supply of PPE from abroad and establishing a sustainable UK manufacturing capability for the duration of the pandemic. It will also be responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective distribution system to all relevant settings.

Your role as Chair of the Taskforce formalises your existing responsibility for this work. You will need to work closely alongside the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, the Chief Medical Officer and Ministers from a number of Departments. Ministerial accountability for PPE will remain with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care; you will want to keep him informed of progress.

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You will also be able to shape the Taskforce as required, bringing in external experts and supplementing and building the internal capacity to drive this work, subject to the usual rules and processes on appointments of civil servants and consultants.

This work is a top priority for the next phase of the Covid-19 response and a personal priority for the Prime Minister. I have therefore instructed all departments to provide you with any necessary support that you require. If you encounter any challenges, you should feel free to contact me or my office so that they can be resolved.

*Yours sincerely,*  


**MARK SEDWILL**