



Public Accounts Committee

Sir Chris Wormald
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
By email: permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk

9 February 2023

Release of papers on Government PPE contracts with PPE Medpro

Dear Permanent Secretary,

On Tuesday 6 December 2022, the House of Commons agreed a [Resolution](#) requesting that all papers, advice and correspondence involving Ministers and Special Advisers, including submissions and electronic communications, relating to Government Personal Protective Equipment contracts awarded to PPE Medpro, be provided to the Public Accounts Committee.

Following the correspondence dated 19 and 20 December with the Minister of State¹, there has been constructive dialogue between the Committee Clerks and senior officials in your Department to ensure the necessary arrangements are in place for the timely provision of the relevant documents. This letter is to confirm the details of those arrangements and that the Committee will receive the unredacted documents² shortly.

To confirm, the Committee is aware of the potential commercial and legal sensitivities of some of the documents. To reiterate, the Public Accounts Committee has a long track record of handling sensitive and secret information on behalf of Parliament and has thorough procedures for handling such documents securely. The Committee has no intention of taking any action which would interfere with due process or interfere with any active legal proceedings or ongoing criminal investigation.

Based on discussions with DHSC officials the Committee Clerks have devised the arrangements set out below to manage the documentation once in our possession:

- Physical copies of the documents will be held in a secure safe on the Parliamentary Estate;
- Access will only be permitted for Committee Members, staff of the PAC and select colleagues from the National Audit Office (to be agreed with the Comptroller and Auditor General);
- Committee Members will only read documents in a reading room under supervision and will not take copies or photographs of the documents or take electronic devices into the room. Notes will be stored in the safe afterwards;
- A record will be kept by the Committee Clerks of access to the material;

¹ [PPE Medpro Correspondence from Will Quince MP](#), Minister of State DHSC, 19 December 2022 & [Response from Dame Meg Hillier MP](#), PAC Chair, 20 December 2022

² The sole exception being the redaction of the names of junior civil servants.



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- Contents of the documents will only be discussed outside of the reading room in private meetings of the Committee.

After this, it will be a matter for the Committee to decide whether publication of any information is in the public interest. In that instance, I would seek to discuss the issue with you prior to the Committee taking a formal decision.

A copy of this letter, and the one you have sent me, will be published on our Committee website.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts