



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department for Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

By email

29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Matt,

I am writing to follow up on the information you offered to provide me during your parliamentary statement on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 as follows:

*"Localised data is available through the work of Public Health England and local directors of public health, including the director for Bedfordshire, and then through our survey data, although that is stronger at the national level than at the regional or local levels. Pulling all this data together, and then ensuring that it gets to the decision makers so that they can base their decisions on it, is the task of the joint biosecurity centre. I will ask its head to write to my hon. Friend with details of the data it has on Bedfordshire and what further data it is working on in order to answer the questions that my hon. Friend rightly asks."*

Since your response, I am pleased to report that Bedfordshire CCG and others have instituted a "deep dive" on the data on infection rates in Bedfordshire and a report should be available to local authorities later this week. I have also had discussions with Councillor Louise Jackson of Bedford Borough Council to understand better the limitations of current data, which may well be assisted by this deep dive, and related topics which may not.

To assist with this review, it would be helpful if the Joint Biosecurity Centre, or PHE, could also provide responses to the following points:

1. What is the established process for information flows on tests taken, and test results, to Local Authorities or Local Resilience Forums?
2. What opportunity have Local Authorities or Local Resilience Forums had to provide input to the questions asked of individuals a) when requesting a test and b) when a test is positive, to optimize the data needed to evaluate locations of concern on a local basis?

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire  
Westminster: 0207 219 8602 Constituency: 01767 313385  
Email: [richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.fuller.mp@parliament.uk)  
Website: [www.richardfuller.co.uk](http://www.richardfuller.co.uk)



3. Is there a common flow of data to Local Authorities or Local Resilience Forums from each of the pillars of testing so that those bodies have a comprehensive data set for evaluation?
4. What is the current and expected speed of data provision from testing to Local Authorities and Local Resilience Forums
5. What consideration has the Department or PHE given to the most informative basis to present information from testing to provide assurance and knowledge to the public about their locality?

Many thanks again for your assistance with this

Sincerely,

Richard Fuller MP

Member of Parliament for North East Bedfordshire