



05 May 2020

Dear PHE staff,

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication as part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of you, working across the country, drawing on your wide-ranging skills, expertise and professionalism are playing a critical role, for which I and indeed the nation are very grateful.

I know that the Secretary of State and my fellow Health and Social Care Ministers are aware of just how much you are doing, working with the NHS, national government, local government, and other essential frontline services to support patients, carers and communities. Your work is having a tremendous impact. I would particularly like to recognise your contribution to issues as wide ranging as diagnostic testing, surveillance, research and evidence development, contact tracing, advice and support for health and care services, scientific advice to the Government, and evidence-based communications to the public.

I understand the personal burden that this work places on each of you as you work round-the-clock under extraordinary circumstances. Many of you have been redeployed to apply your skills and experience to new things, in new teams. Your ongoing flexibility is much needed and greatly appreciated. You continue to be held in high regard by those who understand your immense contribution at this time of difficulty.

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic is the top priority for the whole of government and, is critical for the health and care system both in the UK and internationally. PHE's expertise and leadership will remain crucial to the overall response and, for this reason, this year's Remit Letter focuses on your ongoing role on the pandemic while also recognising the



Department
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importance of your efforts to continue to deliver essential activities that protect and improve the public's wider health.

Thank you again for all that you are doing; you should be proud of your contribution.

Kind regards

JO CHURCHILL

**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and
Primary Care**