



10 DOWNING STREET

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[www.gov.uk/number10](http://www.gov.uk/number10)

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 September 2020

*Dear all*

The last six months have presented an enormous challenge to the people and institutions of the United Kingdom. They have also, however, been a time of unprecedented cooperation between the government, public sector, private business, and the public. From the offers of support to manufacture and donate PPE, to the massive expansion of testing capacity through partnerships with different institutions, the United Kingdom has shown that it can come together to overcome adversity.

Looking ahead to winter, we are likely to face a number of further challenges as we support the massive expansion in testing needed to continue to provide tests for symptomatic people, test at risk groups asymptotically and manage local outbreaks.

I am writing to request your urgent support in further growing the UK's testing capacity as we prepare for winter. One of our most significant challenges in scaling up capacity is the qualified workforce needed. We would therefore ask that you work to provide:

- Experienced staff, who have already helped to establish the Lighthouse laboratories, to return and extend these programmes, training the next generation of staff;
- Technicians, post-docs or graduate students with molecular biology experience, to staff the five lighthouse laboratories in Milton Keynes, Cambridge, Manchester, Newport and Glasgow. We need over 400 people to add to your workforces in these laboratories.
- Qualified technicians / post-docs with management experience, to join the Test and Trace Laboratory Team to help manage our overall lab capacity.

We are looking for individuals to join existing teams for 6 to 12 months starting as soon as possible. They will be fully trained, integrated into existing teams and reimbursed (we can pay at current university rate type salaries).

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak in the national Testing Programme is leading the overall co-ordination of these efforts. Her team will work with anyone expressing interest, with the key point of contact being Joseph Maglovski – please direct any questions to him on [Joseph.Maglovski@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Joseph.Maglovski@dhsc.gov.uk) or 07540 262296. I would be grateful if you can send him details of interested individuals in the next week.

It is essential we continue the unprecedented spirit of cooperation seen in the last few months. Just as your support was vital in the acute phase of this crisis, so it will be for the next period of recovery.

*Yours sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boris Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.