



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From the office of Lord Bethell  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Innovation (Lords)  
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By email to: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

11 June 2020

Dear Lord Hunt,

I have identified an error in my response to you during the oral question on Exercise Cygnus on 9th June.

In response to your query on the lessons from Exercise Cygnus and the care sector, I said: “the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services had strong input into operation Cygnus and its recommendations were taken on board. It was however a trial run for a flu pandemic, not of the kind that Covid produced, and the demands on PPE, the health sector and the care sector were more profound than the flu pandemic trials prepared us for”.

The correct response should have been: the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services were commissioned for further preparedness work following Exercise Cygnus. It was however a trial run for a flu pandemic, not of the kind that Covid produced, and the demands on PPE, the health sector and the care sector were more profound than the flu pandemic trials prepared us for.

I wanted to also give you some background to this. Taking onboard the recommendations from Exercise Cygnus, DHSC commissioned further work on pandemic influenza preparedness from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. This was completed in the spring of 2018 and included advice and guidance on planning for a pandemic which was circulated to Directors of Adult Social Services.

Please accept my apologies for the error. I will deposit a copy of this letter in the Library.

Yours,

**LORD BETHELL**