



Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Dawn Butler MP
Labour MP for Brent Central
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive
Wellington House
133 – 155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8090

Sent by email to: dawnbutlerMPoffice@parliament.uk

www.gov.uk/phe

11 June 2020

Dear Ms Butler

Thank you for your letter of 5 June regarding Public Health England's "Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19" report published in full on 2 June.

PHE was asked by government to conduct a review into how different factors can impact on people's health outcomes from Covid 19. This looked at many factors including obesity, age, geography and ethnicity. This was published on 2 June.

We acknowledge that our initial press release on the report, which noted that Kevin Fenton would be leading on the review, and subsequent communications which gave this impression, have led to confusion on this.

For clarity, Professor Kevin is PHE "Senior Responsible Officer" for a wider portfolio of work that includes other activities related to BAME and COVID.

It may be helpful for me to clarify that we undertook two activities. Separately, and to complement work going forward, PHE has been engaging with a significant number of individuals and organisations within the BAME community over the past couple of months, to hear their views, concerns and ideas about the impact of covid-19 on their communities.

Professor Fenton led a rapid literature review, stakeholder engagement, and cross-PHE coordination and preparation of resources to guide local responses to this. This work will contribute to and inform the next stage of this work undertaken by the Equalities Minister, and we intend to both submit this to her and publish this work next week.

As you know, the Equalities Minister will be leading on next steps, working with PHE and others. The terms of reference for this can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-steps-for-work-on-covid-19-disparities-announced>.

Given the importance of this work, I am also copying the Equalities Minister.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive