



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Lord Bethell
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Innovation*

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The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
By email to: george.howarth.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 March to Nadhim Zahawi on behalf of a number of your constituents about COVID-status certification.

COVID-status certification involves using testing or vaccination data to confirm in different settings that people have a lower risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others.

The Government will review whether COVID-status certification could play a role in reopening our economy, reducing restrictions on social contact and improving safety. This will include assessing to what extent certification would be effective in reducing risk, and the potential uses to enable access to settings or a relaxation of COVID-secure mitigations.

The Government will also consider the ethical, equalities, privacy, legal and operational aspects of this approach and what limits, if any, should be placed on organisations using certification. It will draw on external advice to develop recommendations that take into account any social and economic impacts, implications for disproportionately impacted groups, and individuals' privacy and security. The Government will set out its conclusions in advance of Step Four of its plan to ease restrictions, in order to inform the safe reopening of society and the economy.

I hope this reply is helpful.

LORD BETHELL