



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Jo Churchill MP
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The Baroness Barker
Vice Chair
All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS

By email to: mark.lewis20@gmail.com

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Dear Baroness Barker,

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 December to Matt Hancock, on behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on HIV/AIDS, about HIV testing. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I was interested to read your suggestion and I am grateful that you have taken the time to contact the department regarding this matter.

The Government is committed to the goal of reaching zero new HIV transmissions in England by 2030. The issue of expanding HIV testing for reducing late diagnoses and undiagnosed HIV infections will be considered as part of the development of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy and the HIV Action Plan, which are planned for publication later this year. Any relevant evidence and lessons emerging from the COVID-19 testing in various settings and across different population groups will also be considered.

There are currently no plans to use COVID-19 vaccination appointments to discuss wider health issues, including HIV status. The purpose of these appointments is to ensure that as many people as possible are protected against COVID-19. During the appointment, the health professional administering the vaccine will discuss risk factors and ensure that the person attending has given informed consent.

I hope this reply is helpful to you, and I would be grateful if you could share this reply with your co-signatories.

JO CHURCHILL