



Operation Moonshot: UK Government plans up to 10 million covid-19 tests a day

Description

The UK government has drawn up plans to carry out up to 10 million covid-19 tests a day by early next year as part of a huge £100bn (€110bn; \$130bn) expansion of its national testing programme, documents seen by The BMJ show.

The internal correspondence reveals that the government is prepared to almost match what it spends on the NHS in England each year (£130bn) to fund mass testing of the population "to support economic activity and a return to normal life" under its ambitious Operation Moonshot programme.

A briefing memo sent to the first minister and cabinet secretaries in Scotland, seen by The BMJ, says that the UK-wide Moonshot programme is expected to "cost over £100bn to deliver." If achieved, the programme would allow testing of the entire UK population each week.

A separate PowerPoint presentation prepared for the government by the global management consulting firm Boston Consulting Group, also seen by The BMJ, says the plans had the potential to grow the UK's testing capacity from the current 350 000 a day to up to 10 million tests a day by early 2021.

Read more:

www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3520

www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3585

Category

1. General

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Author

web45