



Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the friends and members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Antibiotics.

As Chair of that Group, I am respectfully requesting the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the possibility of appointing a UK Government Minister with a portfolio to address, specifically, drug-resistant infection and pandemic prevention and preparedness.

As you can see from the number of cosignatories to this letter, this proposal has already generated a significant amount of support on all sides of both Houses.

We know through the work of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy that many of the world's leading infection specialists think the policy approach to viral pandemic (in this instance, coronavirus and COVID-19) should be combined with ongoing efforts to contain and control drug-resistant infection (both of which feature in the World Health Organization's top 10 threats to global health).

We feel that the scale, complexity, and urgency, of this challenge requires leadership, visibility, and accountability – as well as an elected representative with the ability to work across Government departments and all areas of health and science (factory farming, for example, is already a major focus for those working on the prevention of drug-resistance – and is considered one of the most likely causes of the next influenza pandemic).

We like to imagine a situation in which a named Cabinet Office Minister could co-ordinate the delivery of Government objectives via all relevant departments: HM Treasury; Health and Social Care; Environment Food and Rural Affairs; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The list goes on.

By taking decisive action now, the UK Government can show global leadership in an area that has the potential to prove more catastrophic, and more difficult to solve, than the current pandemic.

For all of those reasons, we very much look forward to the prospect of meeting with you.

Julian Sturdy MP

Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Antibiotics

Apsana Begum MP (Labour)

Aaron Bell MP (Conservative)
Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP (Labour)
Ian Byrne MP (Labour)
Daisy Cooper MP (Liberal Democrat)
Rosie Cooper MP (Labour)
Rt. Hon. David Davis MP (Conservative)
Allan Dorans MP (SNP)
Dr Luke Evans MP (Conservative)
Rt. Hon. Dame Cheryl Gillan MP
Kevin Hollinrake MP (Conservative)
Rt. Hon. Sir George Howarth MP (Labour)
Dr Neil Hudson MP (Conservative)
Dame Diana Johnson MP (Labour)
Pauline Latham MP (Conservative)
Rt. Hon. Dr Julian Lewis MP (Conservative)
Carla Lockhart MP (DUP)
John McDonnell MP (Labour)
Catherine McKinnell MP (Labour)
Stephen Metcalfe MP (Conservative)
Layla Moran MP (Liberal Democrat)
Sarah Olney MP (Liberal Democrat)
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP (Labour)
Virendra Sharma MP (Labour)
Graham Stringer MP (Labour)
Mohammad Yasin MP (Labour)
Rt. Hon. Theresa Villers MP (Conservative)
Munira Wilson MP (Liberal Democrat)

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)
Baroness Boycott of Whitefield (Crossbench)
Lord Deben PC (Conservative)
Professor the Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)
Baroness Masham of Ilton (Crossbench)
Professor the Lord Trees of the Ross (Crossbench)
Baroness Walmsley (Liberal Democrat)