

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock, MP, Secretary
of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health & Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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Date: 11.9.20
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Dear Matt Hancock

I'm writing to you, on behalf of my community, as the leader of Brighton and Hove City Council, where we are working incredibly hard to slow the spread of coronavirus. **I've had hundreds of requests from my community to write to you, and ask that local, public health protections teams are given the resources for track and trace, not private companies who look set to gain another £528 million potentially from August 23rd onwards.**

The announcements that the regional element of track and trace was being strengthened was welcome. However news that the privatised national operation is to be integrated with regional and local teams is not holding up to scrutiny.

Only [a small number of the tracers](#) are being allocated to regional and local teams as opposed to all of the '[remaining teams](#)' as we previously understood. Localised responses such as door knocking do not appear to be funded, putting even more pressure on local authorities and public health teams with limited budgets.

I understand that Serco and Sitel have been contracted to continue their work. This is in spite of their repeated failures, including the fact that on average only 57% of close contacts have been reached by the national call centre system since Test and Trace was launched (according to the government's own data: [NHS Test and Trace statistics 28 May to 5 August 2020: data tables](#)).

Local health protection teams have reached [97% of close contacts](#) on average. While local authorities, health protection teams and health services staff know their communities and have years of expertise in contact tracing, Serco's call handlers have repeatedly complained of a lack of training and criticised the entire system.

I believe that the vital work being done by local authorities, Public Health England local health protection teams and local health services (including GPs and NHS labs) means **local, public teams should be put back in charge of track and trace in the community**. This is the system that Wales has opted for, as has Germany, which is working well.



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For the sake of everyone working so hard to get us through this crisis, making sacrifices for the good of everyone, please stop this atrocious waste of public money and **give local authorities the resources they need to scale up the work they're already doing well.**

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Phélim Mac Cafferty

Leader, Brighton and Hove City Council

Green Party Councillor for Brunswick and Adelaide, Brighton and Hove City Council