

**From:** [Details supplied]  
**Sent:** 15 December 2021 12:48  
**To:** [Details supplied]  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** 30 November House of Keys commitment

**SENT ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF MINISTER**

Dear Mr President, Mr Speaker, Honourable Members

During the 30 November Sitting of the House of Keys, Mrs Christian asked if I would confirm when was the first time the EAG advised to increase the current maximum levels for PCR testing and how many times have they repeated this request (*Hansard ref 190*). I committed to providing Honourable Members with this information and the relevant information from the minutes is included below.

**26 May 2021 (initial meeting of the EAG)**

*The group asked about the ability of the current PCR testing regime to cope with variants of concern in a swift manner*

**1 June 2021 – CoMIN asked how to protect capacity in relation to PCR testing**

*The group's advice is that the use of postal self-swabbing in certain situations would increase capacity in PCR testing, without requiring swabbers. There is also a role for quality-assured Lateral Flow antigen tests (from the Public Health England list of validated manufacturers).*

**4 November 2021**

*The EAG is concerned that the pressure on the pathology laboratory is going to become unsustainable over the winter months as Covid-19 cases continue to increase.*

**29 November 2021**

*The EAG advises DHSC/Manx Care to review the current maximum throughput levels for PCR tests at the pathology lab and to consider whether they are sufficient to deal with additional volumes likely in the context of winter demand and the Omicron variant. This will include increased demand from travel and in relation to greater numbers of people requiring testing from positive LFTs or Covid symptoms which may be a consequence if Omicron variant of COVID-19 becomes established on Island.*

Kind regards,



**Alfred Cannan M**  
**Chief Minister**  
Oik yn Ard-Shirvei

Office of the Chief Minister | Cabinet Office | Isle of Man Government | 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Government Office | Bucks Road | Douglas | Isle of Man | IM1 3PN

| [Details supplied]

| 01624 685706