

## Fol document 1

**From:** SAAS Chief Executive <saasce@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 December 2020 10:09  
**To:** VP Governance <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk  
**Cc:** Director of Advanced Learning and Science  
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy)  
<Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec  
**Importance:** High

See attached – is a 50% cost floor acceptable? I think we should welcome this significantly improved offer.

David

**David Robb**  
Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)  
*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** SAAS Chief Executive  
**Sent:** 16 December 2020 19:39  
**To:** 'VP Governance' ; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk' ; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk' ;  
[redacted]@dundee.ac.uk' ; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk'  
**Cc:** Director of Advanced Learning and Science ; Macdonald R (Roddy) ;  
[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk'  
**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Here is the (now infamous) slide. I am still pressing DHSC for more movement, but it would be helpful to have a sense of how much more you think it will cost to run your test sites next term. Even a ball park figure would help.

D

**David Robb**  
Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)  
*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** SAAS Chief Executive  
**Sent:** 16 December 2020 15:00  
**To:** 'VP Governance' <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk'; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk' <[redacted]@ed.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk' >; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk' >; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk'  
**Cc:** Director of Advanced Learning and Science  
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; <[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Colleagues

Quick Update: DHSC joining us on call at 4 to explore possible further flexibility. They do not seem keen to revert back to December guidance, even just for Scotland.

Best regards,

David

**David Robb**

Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)  
*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** SAAS Chief Executive

**Sent:** 14 December 2020 12:31

**To:** 'VP Governance' <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk;  
<DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Hi [redacted] – you're not alone. Have been pushing back hard on this. Understand that there is an update on the cost guidance coming today that is said to be beneficial to institutions. Due to this DHSC/Deloitte have said that the deadline to sign agreements has been moved to tomorrow.

More at 1.30,

D

**David Robb**

Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)  
*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** VP Governance <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 14 December 2020 08:27

**To:** SAAS Chief Executive <saasce@gov.scot>; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk

**Cc:** [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk;  
DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Dear David,

Having now seen the DHSC guidance, which issued late Friday, I am also very concerned at the funding model, which at £5.50 per test will cover an even smaller fraction of our operating costs than the current one.

Best,

[redacted]

**From:** saasce@gov.scot <saasce@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 11 December 2020 19:03

**To:** [redacted]@uws.ac.uk

**Cc:** [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk;

[redacted]@ed.ac.uk; VP Governance <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>;

[redacted]@dundee.ac.uk; DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Thanks [redacted] – helpful to have your concerns fleshed out. I am copying this to the Testing Leads who sit on our Programme Board.

I have flagged the issue urgently with DHSC, seeking clarification (I have still not seen any new cost recovery guidance). I have also repeated my initial reaction that it is simply not reasonable to expect any HEI to sign a contract in this situation.

I will advise you and copy recipients of any developments.

Best regards,

David

**David Robb**

Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)

*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** [redacted]@uws.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 11 December 2020 18:19

**To:** SAAS Chief Executive <saasce@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Thanks David.

Just as a follow-up on cost recovery from this afternoon as I've been thinking about it more.

I really do understand (and in principle welcome!) the intention for simplicity and reducing the burden on cost recovery data.

I am struggling to see a way in which it can be simplified to a fund-by-test completed model without causing iniquity between large and smaller-scale providers.

If I think of the UWS situation – recognising it may be uncommon if not unique – we will need to have three sites running across Ayr, Lanarkshire and Paisley. We are looking to hold 4 sessions a week on each site to ensure a student can get a test within max 36 hours of return. The sessions will be 4 hours long and held alternating morning or afternoon, to ensure that students have a variety of timeslots to accommodate with teaching timetable and other obligations. In order to meet SOP staffing requirements we believe we require at minimum three members of staff at each session.

At our Ayr Campus we have 109 students in residences and anticipate c. 90 of those will change household over the winter break. From our entire Ayr campus population, we think at most 300 students could change households. In the service we intend to deliver at Ayr Campus – the minimum service we think we can deliver to meet SG expectations on staggered return and availability of testing – is 24 sessions (4 sessions per week for six weeks). Within each 4 hour session we can deliver 96 tests. The theoretical testing capacity of Ayr campus will therefore be 2304 tests.

On the basis of uptake in December, it is likely that the Ayr Campus site will conduct c. 150 tests.

Hoping this illustrates the gulf between anticipated cost recovery between the current model and the likely cost recovery possible under a fund-per-test approach. As ever, happy to discuss and happy for this information to be shared with others if useful in putting a compelling argument. I'll add the caveat that the figures include a series of assumptions – so are not absolutes! Any errors are wholly mine etc etc.

With this outstanding issue, I cannot advise UWS to sign the legal agreement and so deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> looks very challenging.

Best wishes,  
[redacted]

## Fol document 2

**From:** SAAS Chief Executive <saasce@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 17 December 2020 11:31  
**To:** VP Governance <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; Director of Advanced Learning and Science <DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot>; Macdonald R (Roddy) <Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec  
**Importance:** High

OK – thanks for quick reactions. I'm going to go back to DHSC and say that we welcome this improvement and are now content. I understand this will be on offer to all HEIs and DHSC plan to announce this on the webinar today.

David

**David Robb**  
Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)  
*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** VP Governance  
**Sent:** 17 December 2020 10:37  
**To:** [redacted] (Staff) ; [redacted]; SAAS Chief Executive  
**Cc:** [redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; Director of Advanced Learning and Science ; Macdonald R (Roddy) ; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Likewise agree we should welcome this as a significant improvement. We're running the figures on this to see how much it will reduce our losses.

Best,

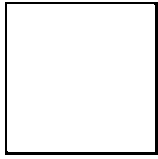
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 December 2020 10:24  
**To:** [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>; saasce@gov.scot  
**Cc:** VP Governance <vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot; Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

Same here David.

Best wishes

[redacted]



Dr [redacted]

[redacted]

University Executive Office, University of Dundee

[redacted] [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk

**From:** [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>

**Sent:** 17 December 2020 10:15

**To:** saasce@gov.scot

**Cc:** vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; DirectorofAdvancedLearningandScience@gov.scot;

Roddy.Macdonald@gov.scot; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk

**Subject:** Re: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 11 Dec

I would say any improvement in funding is welcome, David.

[redacted]

[redacted]

University of Glasgow

T: [redacted]

M: [redacted]

### Fol document 3

**From:** Robb DT (David) <David.Robb@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** SAAS Chief Executive

**Sent:** 21 November 2020 13:27

**To:** [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk; vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk; [redacted]@stir.ac.uk; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk; [redacted]@qmu.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk; [redacted]@strath.ac.uk; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk>; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk>; vpresearch <vpresearch@st-andrews.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@hw.ac.uk>; [redacted]@hw.ac.uk>; [redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@edinburghcollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundeeandangus.ac.uk>; [redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk' [redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk>; DCMO Health COVID19 <DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk; [redacted]@nescol.ac.uk'>; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>; PO, COVID-19 <C19PO@hw.ac.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@dundeeandangus.ac.uk>; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk>; [redacted]@deloitte.co.uk>; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk; [redacted] (RMAS-Gp-OTCEdinburgh-OC-LdrDev) <[redacted]@mod.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@nhs.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 20 Nov - Follow-up

**Importance:** High

Follow-up from Friday:

1. Note of meeting attached for reference - action points highlighted.
2. Action point: [Pay rates & cost recovery](#)

Final cost recovery guidance attached for reference (most of you should have this already).

It now specifies a range of rates that DHSC would expect to be paid against the roles. The upper limits of the rates all exceed the Real Living Wage rate (£9.50) so it should be possible to meet commitments as Living Wage employers and seek cost recovery on this basis during the 9 day period provided for. I hope this clarification is helpful and welcome.



Best regards,

David

**David Robb**

Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)  
*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 20 November 2020 11:43

**To:** [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; SAAS Chief Executive ; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk; vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk; [redacted]@stir.ac.uk; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk; [redacted]@qmu.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@rgu.ac.uk; [redacted]@strath.ac.uk; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk; [redacted] ; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk; [redacted] (ohes) [redacted] (Staff) ; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; vpresearch ; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@edinburghcollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted]; [redacted]; '[redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk' ; DCMO Health COVID19 ; [redacted] (DCMO) ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted]; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted] ; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk; [redacted]@nescol.ac.uk' ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk; [redacted] ; PO, COVID-19 ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted] ; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk; [redacted]

**Subject:** Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group - Friday 20 Nov

Dear All

Please find attached the minutes for the Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group meeting that took place on 18 November.

As part of the agenda for today's meeting, we will be covering communications and in advance are sharing a **draft** FAQ. Alongside US, CS, SG marketing, test and Protect colleagues and others we have established a small group to look at the DHSC toolkit to make sure it aligns with the Scottish test and protect arrangements. We can outline the Comms strategy at the meeting further but thought it would be useful to see meantime.

The proposed agenda for this afternoon's meeting is as follows:

- Update from DHSC
- Communications
- Financial estimates
- Operational concerns/queries



- AOB

Thanks,

[redacted]

## Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group 20 November Minute & Action Points

### Finance

- [redacted] noted that clarity is still needed around the wage rate for staff, guidance quotes NLW figures however universities committed to paying real living wage. Also questioned if testing is offered over the 8 day window, will SG cover the difference?
- DHSC will support HEIs but acknowledged this may not cover their full costs
- [redacted] highlighted that there is significant disparity between the illustrated example of costings and actual forecasted costings
- David Robb advised that pay rates question has been raised with DHSC -
- awaiting response; conversation ongoing around covering any funding gaps **ACTION**

### Actions

- **David Robb:**
  - Updated pay rate position needed

## Fol document 4

**From:** SAAS Chief Executive <saasce@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 17 December 2020 16:25

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@gsa.ac.uk; vpgov@st-andrews.ac.uk; [redacted]@uws.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@uws.ac.uk; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@stir.ac.uk; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@qmu.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@strath.ac.uk; [redacted]@gsa.ac.uk; [redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@collegesscotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@uhi.ac.uk; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk>; [redacted]@napier.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@napier.ac.uk>; [redacted]@ed.ac.uk>; [redacted]@st-andrews.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@sruc.ac.uk>; vpresearch <vpresearch@st-andrews.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@hw.ac.uk>; J[redacted]@hw.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@edinburghcollege.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted]@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk; DCMO Health COVID19  
<DCMOHealth.COVID19@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;  
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@sruc.ac.uk; [redacted]@nescol.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@deloitte.co.uk>; [redacted]@trivandi.com>;  
[redacted]@dundeeandangus.ac.uk>; [redacted]@abdn.ac.uk  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gcu.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@stir.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk;  
[redacted]@rgu.ac.uk>; [redacted]@nhs.scot>;  
[redacted]@dundeeandangus.ac.uk>; [redacted]@edinburghcollege.ac.uk>;  
[redacted]@rgu.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@glasgow.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Asymptomatic Testing Implementation Group

Good afternoon,

To confirm some good news which may have reached you already.

DHSC have agreed to raise the floor in their cost recovery model quite significantly (from 30% to 50%) and I think this goes a long way to meet the concerns you have expressed about the new basis for reimbursement of expenditure.

After a quick consultation with [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] we have accepted the model and I hope this now removes any obstacle in the way of full participation in Round 2 of the testing programme.

Thanks for your patience.

I'll be circulating some thoughts about what we might cover in our meeting tomorrow: am keen for us to consider how best to build on our experience so far and to align all the measures at our disposal to secure a safe re-start next term.

Best,

David

**David Robb**

Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)

*Informing Choices, Funding Futures, Supporting Success*

Due to the pandemic I am also currently working on Coronavirus Outbreak Management with colleagues in the Scottish Government Advanced Learning & Science Directorate

## Fol document 5

**From:** Robb DT (David) <David.Robb@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** SAAS Chief Executive

**Sent:** 18 November 2020 19:11

**To:** [redacted]@dundee.ac.uk

**Cc:** [redacted]@universities-scotland.ac.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot>

**Subject:** Testing Roll-out - Staff Wages

Hi [redacted],

Some concerns being raised about pay rates for testing staff ([redacted] may have relayed them to you already).

Is there a potential inequalities issue if existing university support staff are moved onto the testing work (at existing T&Cs), working alongside students or other temporary staff working on different T&Cs?

The general concern about minimum v living wage has been noted – how big an uplift would the latter involve?

D

**David Robb**

Chief Executive, Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)

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