

UK government praises our Covid-19 testing work

Published on May 01, 2020

The UK prime minister's office – [No.10](#) – has thanked our teams for helping it to increase the number of coronavirus tests available for essential workers and vulnerable people.

The UK government had aimed to increase the number of daily tests carried out for Covid-19 to [100,000](#), a significant increase.

In recent weeks we have been using our broad expertise to install a number of testing sites on their behalf, helping the government to, if not meet their ambitious target, then at least get very close to their desired six-digit number, marking a step change in how the country plans to combat the disease.

Alex Cooper, the UK government's Covid-19 Operations Director, emailed us to say: "It has taken a truly impressive performance across the enterprise to get into this position and very few thought that it was possible. There was a plan, yet it was ridden with risk and fuelled by hope.

"You should all be very proud of what you have done. Operationally this was exceptionally complex and the last few days we have finally delivered a capability at the scale that we need to drive national recovery. In more sense than one it has been the end of the beginning. Thank you."



[Gordon Brockington](#), Regional Business Development Director, UK & Ireland, and our Project Manager for the facilities, explains:

"As a business it shows what a fantastic job we do behind the scenes. In addition to site security, we were asked to scope and develop the sites – basically set them up and then manage the whole facility, all in collaboration with Boots, who are providing the clinical testing at certain sites."



So far, we are managing 15 testing sites across the UK, including at the O2 in London, Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham, and Haydock racecourse in Liverpool.

We organise staff, manage traffic flows, keep the facilities clean, organise personal protective equipment, and ensure the whole operation runs smoothly. It is a fast-paced and intense environment, but vital to the health of thousands.

"These are vital facilities for ensuring the UK responds to the greatest global health emergency in more than a century," says Gordon.

"They are helping healthcare professionals, key workers and key workers families, who may otherwise be self-isolating, get back to the frontline as soon as possible, and protecting the safety of those who are most vulnerable."



To date, more than 2,900 employees have committed to work at the sites, and Gordon could not be more proud of our teams:

"I have been inspired by the enthusiasm of our people, in particular those on the frontline. They have stepped up when our communities have needed them most, playing their part to support the government, its health services and the public during this exceptional crisis."