

I just can't see that this is right. We are both keen to work, we are both desperate to work, and as with most GPs, we would work through a minor illness. We don't take time off lightly. After days of accusations of missing targets and mishandling, the Health Secretary, just back at work after the virus himself, is trying to show the government is getting a grip. I understand why NHS staff want tests, so they can get back to the front line, of course I do. But I took the decision that the first priority has to be the patients for whom the result of a test could be the difference in treatment that is the difference between life and death. Privately, the government admits they have been too slow, so now, with help from business and a huge new push, they are setting a vast new target. I am now setting the goal of 100,000 tests per day by the end of this month. That is the goal, and I'm determined that we will get there. Can you give us a firm date by when any NHS staff that need a test will get a test? Because in a fast-moving crisis like this, the end of the month is still a long time away. I will, over the coming weeks, seek to ensure that every NHS front line staff member who needs a test gets one. Would you put a date on that? Would you give it a deadline? Because people are very worried about this right now. Well, they are, and I'm glad that we are able to speed it up. It will absolutely be before the end of the month. But we are, and I'm saying, over the coming weeks.