

---

**Professor Sir Ian Diamond** | National Statistician

William Wragg MP  
Chair, Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

30 September 2020

Dear Mr Wragg,

While providing evidence to the Committee on 22 September for the inquiry *Data Accountability and Transparency: COVID-19*, I promised to provide further information on sex differences in antibodies.

On Monday we published our latest analysis on antibodies from the COVID-19 Infection Survey<sup>1</sup>. Blood samples taken between 26 April and 02 September show that females are less likely than males to have ever tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies, although the upper confidence interval shows that this difference may be very small.

The NHS blood transfer service are collecting convalescent plasma from individuals who have had the COVID-19 virus, for use in trials looking at possible treatments for COVID-19. The trials are investigating whether convalescent plasma transfusions could improve a COVID-19 patient's speed of recovery and chances of survival.

Please do let me know if I can help the Committee further with this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Sir Ian Diamond**

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveycharacteristicsofpeopletestingpositiveforcovid19inenglandseptember2020>