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'Economic Growth & Prosperity' Series

Webinar: Cross-Sector Collaboration in Focus:

The Ventilator Challenge

Tuesday 29 June 2021

The panel discussed why The Ventilator Challenge was an important success story in the initial COVID-19 response period.



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Key statistics

The Ventilator Challenge was hailed a success and some important statistics are:

- Over 15,000 ventilators were designed, scaled and built in four and a half months
- The average cost per ventilator was c. 20% lower than the price paid on the market
- Value recovery delivered over £20m back to the taxpayer

Expert Insight

There were a number of points raised during the discussion, and below are a handful of the key learnings:

- The scale and speed required was a challenge as ventilators were needed in weeks not months, traditionally taking 3-5 years to design and an average 9 months for regulatory approval
- Further issues were faced in procurement and supply chain along with trying to understand the scale of the team required
- Trying to do it virtually was a challenge
- Solutions came from securing funding, collating a multidisciplinary team by matching subject matter experts and vetting suppliers efficiently
- Important to get the right cadence and daily rhythm, the team spoke to senior decision makers every evening regarding priorities and how to solve problems
- There was an element of creativity that came from adversity – especially in the transportation of parts
- Recognising the importance of looking after one another, and celebrating success when achieving something that has been incredibly hard
- Setting up the program with strong audit trails, clarity on decision making, and taking minutes from team meetings
- Understanding the possible need to stop and re-evaluate tasks, and make changes
- Agile response to unforeseen challenges
- Incredibly impressed with everyone involved with this process, the experience of collaboration was fantastic, and provides excellent hope for future projects

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