

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
January 2020	"Chris thought would be contained [...] PM "my gut tells me this will be fine" MH - desperate to own & lead [...] PM still optimistic [...] CW more cautious than me."	1, 2, 3, 4

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February 2020	On fatigue: "COBRA stands but all chaired by MH & very health focussed. CW took lead on all. CW worried about pulling trigger too soon - "cause harm" & introduced some stuff on "fatigue" if you started too early (not from BS or SAGE)."	3

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04.05.20	"Late afternoon meeting with PM on schools. My God this is complicated and models will not provide the answer. PM is clearly bamboozled."	27

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
07.05.20	"Ministers try to make science give the answers rather than them making decisions."	29

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
10.05.20	"I have clearly said that the proposal to open as much as possible will push $R > 1$ Chris and I both made it very clear that we think speed and timescale too fast"	31

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
11.05.20	"SPI-B - had to calm them down about role of advice vs decisions. Immediately after another article in the Guardian...with quotes from people and SPI-B - disgraceful."	32

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14.05.20	"PM asking whether we have 'overdone it on the lethality of this disease'. He sways between optimism and pessimism...PM still confused on different types of test (he holds it in his head for a session and then it goes)."	35

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21.05.20	"Care homes meeting. PM is now putting real pressure on them to sort things out but still they won't stop people working across more than one home. This is a big issue everywhere (and we raised in Feb)."	40

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21.05.20	"PM talked about caution etc and then said, 'Yes, we must go ahead with breezy confidence and get this country going again.' Both CW and I rather shocked by breezy confidence. He just wants everyone to like him."	41

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.05.20	"PM seems very bullish and wants to have everything released sooner and more extremely than we would. Wants to divert from the DC fiasco (caught having gone to Durham - clearly against the rules). All very worrying [...] Not a single mention of DC at Cabinet!"	45

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.05.20	<p>"Opening outdoor hospitality. PM 'It will be like Damascus' and souks then everyone pointed out 'not quite like Damascus'. Raised concerns with Simon Case re the tone of what is being proposed &amp; with Chris and me being part of somehow a political message. Simon says - hospitality will come out of the package - Let's see. It really does have to. -Let's see. CW and I very reluctant to do the press conference. It is highly political and will be focussed on DC. PM seems very bullish and wants to have everything released sooner and more extremely than we would. Wants to divert from the DC fiasco (caught have gone to Durham - clearly against the rules). All very worrying. Cabinet all upbeat and 'breezy confidence' - incredibly alarming. 'Al fresco shopping all like a wonderful middle east souk' ... It was another rambling opening to Cabinet. Quite extraordinary. Did say 'not there yet on outside hospitality'.</p>	45

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28.05.20	"Chat with SPI-B chairs about the inappropriate behaviours of the behavioural scientists."	50

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
03.06.20	"Quad call exposed the massive internal operational mess inside DHSC and PHE. Getting something done is almost impossible. Yvonne Doyle spouts generalities and PHE doesn't have the resource."	52

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.06.20	<p>"Apparently PM is finding this all very difficult - looked awful in meeting with CMO and Simon Case etc [...] Simon says he is quite frail on all this. Had a shouty meeting with Cx who wants everything open but was challenged by PM [...] Cx unable to respond. Cx quite good at cherry picking when other countries are opening up and making it sound like they have all gone further than us. [...] Helen Whatley (junior minister) apparently said on Sky this morning "you can't blame the scientists for care homes" said "I can" and then promptly tried to back track. I would like to see her try! We warned in Feb."</p>	59-60

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
11.06.20	"Paper from No10/CO (Simon Case) for 1m/2m review. Some person has completely rewritten the same advice as though it is the definitive version. They have just cherry picked. Quite extraordinary. [...] Note - apparently Simon Case said don't bring new schools advice Q to SAGE - as the minutes get published."	62

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
11.06.20	"Actually having a discussion [Meeting with PM] about "letting it rip"."	62

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11.06.20	"Watching PM get his head around stats is awful. He finds relative and absolute risk almost impossible to understand."	62

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
14.06.20	"On Friday the 2M rule meeting made it abundantly clear that no one in no 10 or CO had really read or taken time to understand the science advice on 2M. Quite extraordinary."	64

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
19.06.20	"Morning PM meeting [...] wants everything normal by September and only deal with things locally and regionally. He is now completely bullish about opening everything - as CW said it is so inconsistent. It is like 'bipolar decision-making'."	68

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
19.06.20	"No 10 pushing hard on releasing measures - Including clubs and bars. They are pushing very hard and want the science altered. We need to hold on to our hats. There will likely be a second peak."	69

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
23.06.20	<p>“Schools and winter will add more problems - I told them to watch out for a national spike given the connectivity and to expect more outbreaks. After an OK SAGE where they seemed rather Dovish in relation to the changes (all now want to get things moving) Slater called. Interestingly he said DfE SoS didn't want to ask SAGE about schools <u>because the minutes would be published</u> - consequence of transparency!”</p>	72

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23.06.20	"Inde SAGE widely seen as having sewn confusion with unions and schools in May/June by pretending to be SAGE."	73

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25.06.20	"SoS Education DfE says don't ask SAGE as minutes get published."	73

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
02.07.20	"In economics meeting earlier in the day they didn't realise CMO was there and Cx said, 'It is all about handling the scientists, not handling the virus.' They then got flustered when CMO chipped in later and they realised he had been there all along. PM blustered and waffled for 5 mins to cover his embarrassment."	80

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13.07.20	"The ridiculous flip-flopping is getting worse - maybe as he recovers?"	88

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22.07.20	"PM struggled with whole concept of doubling times...just couldn't get it."	96

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27.07.20	"Dido pushed to get financial support for people to get tested in low socioeconomic groups. Rishi reacted strongly against that and said basically... "just stop the social interactions" [...] For Rishi – it is all about personal responsibility and get the state out."	100

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30.07.20	"Hancock lied in relation to LAMP testing and saliva testing and implied it was all in hand."	104

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06.08.20	"PM Covid (S) meeting on schools. 'Don't want to hear about plan B and C for failure. I just want all pupils back at school' [...] 'We are no longer taking this Covid excuse stuff. Get back to school'."	112

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12.08.20	"We suggested that more carrot and incentives required to make people take a test, self-isolate etc but they always want to go for stick not carrot."	116

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24.08.20	"Scotland breaks ranks over face coverings and schools despite CMO having worked hard to get all CMOs aligned to a very good statement released the day before."	127

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26.08.20	"PM WhatsApp group kicks off because PM has read in FT that the IFR is 0.04%. Age-related IFR explained and that overall looks more like 0.4 to 1%. He is obsessed with older people accepting their fate and letting the young get on with life and the economy going. Quite a bonkers set of exchanges."	128

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27.08.20	"Hancock - praising himself for mask decision. He knows that Scotland decision was not based on medical advice (ie it was totally political)"	130

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
04.09.20	"No.10 team segmentation meeting. Pushing really hard on segmenting and allowing people back. We explained (i) young still get ill and may get long-term effects (ii) you can't separate the age groups as it eventually leaks in - look at Spain, France, USA."	141

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07.09.20	<p>"Chief Constables have said current rules too complex and difficult to police. PM looking glum. Then suddenly - 'Is the whole thing a mirage? The curves just follow a natural pattern despite what you do' Incredulity in the room [...] The whole meeting carefully manages the PM (is it always like this?) and he eventually approves the measures - really just reinforcing and enforcing what we should be doing anyway. DC says "we don't want any unrealistic Hancockian timetables." [...] I leave and comment again that PM does not look like a man enjoying his role. CMO still keeps offering a slightly slower path (I think this is wrong and said it)."</p>	144

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07.09.20	"Cx blocking all notion of paying to get people to isolate despite all the evidence that this will be needed."	144

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08.09.20	"Hancock explained things well for once and reminded them about "long Covid""	146

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08.09.20	"Clare Gardiner (JBC) talked PM through the graphs (it is difficult - he asks questions like 'which line is the dark red one' - is he colour blind?) Then 'so you think positivity has gone up overnight oh oh then 'Oh god, bloody hell.' But it is all the same stuff he was shown 6h ago."	146-147

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08.09.20	"I made the point about having to give incentives for self-isolation - PM agreed and said he would take it up with Cx afterwards. Chris and I were aligned and presented what needs to be done. I left the call. Apparently it descended into chaos and CMO not clear where it will land."	147

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09.09.20	"Dashboard - PM heard from Williamson that Eton was testing all pupils before they came back "Pathetic". "Head should be kicked in" Absolute outrage. Numbers going up."	148

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11.09.20	<p>"Tried to reinforce that it wasn't just the 6 thing that was announced. It was behavioural reinforcement across the piece (But it probably is not enough - at least the PM now prepared to pay people to self isolate). Lots of it was reckless to open up questions (as if they didn't push for it). What a week - feels like Feb/March... Strikes me that the delay in introducing the new rules until Monday is exactly what they did in March. Why delay??"</p>	154

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14.09.20	"Simon Case from a couple of days ago - 'PM not exactly a consistent interlocutor'."	156

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
16.09.20	"PM says, 'Maybe we should blame ourselves. Maybe all the moonshot talk hasn't helped.' A rare moment of truthful insight. Complete chaos over schools and what they should do. No one had any answers."	159

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
16.09.20	"Complete chaos over schools and what they should do. No one had any answers. The comms are shambolic. Dido repeated that there will be 500k/800k? by end of October."	159

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18.09.20	"Cummings spoke persuasively on urgent and real action. Why wait and then do it? Do it now and get on top of it. Lee says, 'C&P have been saying all this for months. But what is the strategy for next 6 months.' The whole meeting was about managing Rishi. Then Case whatsapp's late to say PM doesn't want to do anything imminently! Apparently also called CMO to say 'vaccine nearly here' !!"	167

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19.09.20	"PM [...] He is all over the place and completely inconsistent. You can see why it was so difficult to get agreement to lockdown 1st time."	167

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
20.09.20	<p>“5 hr of meetings with the PM. He came back from Battle of Britain memorial service and was distressed by seeing everyone separated and in masks - ‘mad and spooky, we have got to end it.’ Starts challenging numbers and questioning whether they really translate into deaths. Says it is not exponential etc etc. Looked broken - head in hands a lot. “Is it because of the great libertarian nation we are that it spreads so much.” ‘Maybe we are licked as a species’ ... ‘We are too shit to get our act together.’ We went round in circles and then the famous whiteboard emerges. Discussed Package A (mild ↑ in measures) and Package C (full lockdown) and when and how to do a circuit-breaker [...] eventually sort of agree circuit-breaker and stricter measures [...] but PM keeps clutching at straws.”</p>	170

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.09.20	<p>"PM obsessed with testing again. Wants to know why not ramped up and why is turnaround so slow? PM asks, 'Why is the orange line in the graph so wonky?' Dido explains that things happen that mean their performance is not linear [...] PM says 'We must have known this wasn't working - we have been pretending it has been whereas secretly we know it hasn't been.' Hancock lets out a big sigh. Hancock says other countries are asking him 'How have you managed to do this.'"</p>	185-186

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
06.10.20	<p>“Barrington Declaration - a whole lot of slightly on the edge people...one or two sensible people. But it basically advocates herd immunity and letting rip. 5 reasons why they are wrong: 1) We don't know how long immunity lasts or how complete it is. 2) People in the at-risk group can't be shielded. 3) People not in the vulnerable group will die anyway. 4) Long Covid. 5) Hospitals will be overrun. Numbers ↑↑ - PM called CMO. Case called and they will do more now.”</p>	205

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
07.10.20	<p>"PM very sceptical about Long Covid - 'It's like Gulf War Syndrome,' he says." [...] I was asked whether the new lockdown would work. I said, 'Fighting chance provided we've got the behavioural change.' They didn't like that and lots of mocking of 'fighting chance' [...] eventually agreed that more lockdowns needed in North (and must do things in other areas to stop them getting worse)."</p>	206, 208

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.10.20	<p>"Very bad meeting in No.10...PM talks of Medieval measures than ones being suggested. 'Perhaps we should look at another approach and apply different values' [...] 'Surely this just sweeps through in waves like other natural phenomena and there is nothing we can do.' As Simon Ridley said final slide, PM said, 'Whisky and a revolver.' He was all over the place. Cx using increasingly specific and spurious arguments against closing hospitality. Both of them clutching at straws [...] There are really only three choices for the high prevalence areas [...] 1) Do a proper lockdown 2) Use military to enforce the rules 3) Do nothing and do a 'Barrington Declaration' and count the bodies (poor, old and BAME). When will they decide."</p>	210-211

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
11.10.20	<p>"Press conference tomorrow. I am now dropped in favour of Cx - good. They need to understand and own the decisions they are making [...] Covid O [...] Being asked to 'approve the measures knowing that it is not enough'. Gave the example that Bolton worked but only because hospitality fully closed. This is a massive abrogation of responsibility. Jenrick tried to place it as a 'lack of good evidential base' and basing it on lack of science. [...] Grant Shapps got it right and understood the implications. Ben Wallace also got it and says just doesn't go far enough and argued for clear targets. Dido came in and said in Bolton and Leicester where all hospitality shut the <math>R &lt; 1</math> whereas everywhere else with softer measures not. Cabinet call. Whilst waiting someone clearly not on mute - baby crying and then she starts singing 'the wheels on the bus' - somehow symbolic of the shambles. PM said on call, 'The package we have as a baseline is unlikely to get <math>R &lt; 1</math> unless local leaders go further' ... Hancock says this is our last shot at avoiding national lockdown...meek as mice from Cabinet ministers."</p>	214-216

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12.10.20	"PM trying to explain things in HoC. How to explain "we recommend Tier 3 but don't believe it will work!"	219

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15.10.20	<p>"PM Covid-O. Data presented on how bad things are. He knows he needs to do something. They are still in reactive mode rather than getting ahead of it. PM blaming Burnham for resisting further changes in Manchester. Cx getting very agitated about the cost of all this...</p> <p>Everyone now calling this a "public health emergency" - CDL</p> <p>They are worried that mayors are holding them to ransom and trying to dictate national policy. Why oh why didn't the government take a leadership position and get ahead of all this? We could have clamped down 3 weeks ago and got ahead of the whole problem.</p> <p>"Cummings says "put the data out there. Say that Burnham won and engage [...]. He will crumble."</p>	224

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16.10.20	"PM now obsessed with average age of death being 82 (longer than average life expectancy" "Get Covid live longer"	225

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17.10.20	"Whatsapp from Cummings a few days back - 'This is a shitshow. We should have gone a month ago as we said.'"	227

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17.10.20	"PM -still pushing on aren't all the deaths in really old people"	228

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25.10.20	<p>"PM meeting - begins to argue for letting it all rip. Saying yes, there will be more casualties but so be it - 'they have had a good innings.' Not persuaded by Edmunds, Ferguson, Farrar . PM says "the population just has to behave doesn't it! Heat maps "I have the necrotising maps" so depressing. DC says trajectory will leave us in Nov - much as where we were in 1st week of April. Chris quite bullish about being able to take the brakes off more in April.... Goes on about Gulf War Syndrome again [...] PM getting very frustrated - throwing papers down. PM then back on to 'Most people who die have reached their time anyway.' DC arguing we need to save lives - it is not democratically possible to follow another route... [...] DC argued again (rightly) that a lockdown's coming and therefore do it sooner rather than later. PM concludes, 'Looks like we are in a really tough spot, a complete shambles. I really don't want to do another national lockdown.' PM told that if he wants to go down this route of letting go, 'you need to tell people - you need to tell them you are going to allow people to die' [...] Conclusion - beef up the Tiers - consider a national lockdown - decide by when. DC says 'Rishi thinks just let people die and that's okay.' This all feels like a complete lack of leadership."</p>	238-240

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26.10.20	"PM has come in a different mood - 'terrible, terrible numbers' says 'we need to do local lockdowns fast' [...] 'accelerate' 'we need action.' He is so inconsistent."	240

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28.10.20	"The right wing press are culpable & we have a weak indecisive PM."	243

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28.10.20	"Apparently CO now cautious about putting things to SAGE because we publish it all. That is a very bad outcome."	243

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.11.20	<p>"PM meeting re Tiers (advice from Gold). 'We can't have endless boundary disputes, we have to make arbitrary and draconian decisions.' PM wanting to put more into Tier 1. CMO says, 'I wouldn't put anywhere in Tier 1 as Tier 1 all went up before &amp; this Tier 1 is even less stringent.' Selling the testing on 'Liverpool got out of this by testing' - not true - it made a minor difference. Also endless reference to what focus groups said [...] Ed Lister - 'All our feedback is that the more you put in Tier 1 the better' [...] The exact opposite of what we need to do. This is all a game of getting votes. PM is the only rational voice in the political side [...] PM - arguing for going harder and says, 'More jobs will go if this thing takes off again.' Simon Case comes in and says if you put everyone in lower tiers and then add Christmas we will undoubtedly have to do another national lockdown. PM - 'What this disease has taught us is that hoping that something will turn up and it will be ok is fucking stupid.' Keeps coming back to hope that testing can help."</p>	289-290

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
04.12.20	"PM now very determined to try to keep things down with more measures. Michael Gove will be proved right about London needing to be in Tier 3. PM concludes that most people are going to be moved up a Tier in Jan."	296

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
10.12.20	"PM testing meeting... London > is largely in school-aged children... schools "Why can't we just compel children to be tested" "We make them take French tests, why can't we make them take covid tests"	301-302

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
11.12.20	"DFE still very resistant to letting schools stop early (why??! It makes total sense to do it)"	303

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
14.12.20	<p>"PM pre-meet/Dashboard. [...] Numbers are going up &amp; up. [...] PM told he has been acting early and the public are with him (but his party is not). He says his party 'thinks the whole thing is pathetic and Covid is just Nature's way of dealing with old people - and I am not entirely sure I disagree with them. A lot of moderate people think it is a bit too much.' Wants to rely on polling. Then he says, 'We should move things to Tier 3 now.'"</p>	305

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
14.12.20	<p>"Covid O Hancock comes in with new variant story. ..Stronger messaging at Christmas. Michael Gove was the only one to support Tier 3 last time. What will he do this time? London now 40% of wave 1 peak hospitalisations. PM starts with "everyone wants to go to Tier 3 - if you disagree go now." Sharma "I am not saying that we shouldn't put London in Tier 3 but..." then goes on to say that beds are free &amp; this is crying wolf (attributed it to me but it was Steve Powis/Amanda Pritchard). Chief whip 'No one believes all this.' Jenrick says general agreement that London should go into Tier 3, including with Mayor. PM peddling the narrative that somehow the graphs were 'wrong' last time &amp; collapsed under press scrutiny [...] PM now worrying about Christmas (too late!) Agreed that reframing advice about Christmas needs to take place. Gove says measures from last year show we have been 'too lenient &amp; too late' &amp; we cannot make the same mistakes yet again. This lot are generally a shambles - they need much clearer &amp; simpler comms. Dowden now coming out a bit more in favour of stricter measures."</p>	306-307

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
15.12.20	"Cabinet...Agreed that things need to be scaled back. Christmas must be smaller, shorter & local... Chief whip says 'I think we should let the old people get it & protect others.' PM says 'a lot of my backbenchers think that & I must say I agree with them' ... He says 'let's put Berkshire into Tier 3 & then I can just travel there.' Before Cabinet I said to Gove 'you did well not to say I told you so re putting London into Tier 3.' He grins."	308-309

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
16.12.20	"PM keeps wanting to < the tiers in some areas despite the evidence of what will happen 'we need to give people hope' he says. Will he ever learn?... PM 'we are going to discourage anyone from having fun over Christmas. That's the plan, is it"	311

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
16.12.20	"Covid O - hospital admissions are now close to 1st peak. Bizarrely they have proposals to put some areas into Tier 1. PM wants to de-escalate more. Chief Whip wants to de-escalate the Chairman of the 1922's Constituency & says 'depends on whether you want to follow the politics or the epidemiology' - astonishing!! Many of them seeming quite bullish about keeping restrictions on."	312

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
28.12.20	<p>"PM very keen to get all schools back....Covid O...Williamson says 'one of the biggest mistakes we made during this pandemic was closing schools - as a panic.' Argues that we are about to make the same mistake again. [...] Williamson says 'I think we need to be brave PM.' He plays a 'just because this is London doesn't mean we should do something different.' Argues that testing will be the answer. I told PM earlier that I thought schools (secondary) should stay closed until end Jan. Plan is to fill up schools part by part by only allowing children in who test -ve. Hancock argues that Tier 4 with schools open does not work against the variant in full flow, cites examples from Kent. They are really struggling with the question of how long the school closures need to be (a few days to get testing set up or a couple of months to protect people)...Gove asks whether we really have room to keep schools open if we are to avoid NHS fully overwhelmed...PM struggling with the question of how long the closure would need to be for."</p>	13-14

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
29.12.20	<p>"Covid O - PM says it is 'grim' hospital occupancy close to first wave levels...The whole situation looks bad...CMO says Kent might have stabilised a bit. Grant Shapps says things always get worse but 'we need to go harder &amp; earlier &amp; we have failed to do so time &amp; time again.' Even Rishi Sunak seems to accept that the only option is to be precautionary. PM says - 'we have never been wrong by being too pessimistic but have been wrong often by being too optimistic.' Chief Whip - still not convinced this is needed, clearly against any further restrictions. No wonder we have a problem. PM is actually rather patient with them all. Gove argues all of England should go into Tier 4. PM still can't get himself off giving 'rewards' to those who don't need to be in Tier 4 'yet' - once again going to go for things too late. Even Sharma seems to support firmer measures now. CMO gives the chief whip a bit of a ticking off saying beds are very full &amp; this is real. I said that mortality goes up as hospitals get busier. 300 beds in Nightingale in London being stood up."</p>	15-16

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
29.12.20	<p>"Covid O Schools (with a smaller group of ministers). PM says we are less worried about university especially the CX [...] PM says 'I have a dream where every school becomes a mini Slovakia with testing with totalitarian efficiency.' Gavin Williamson says he has a very high level of confidence that he can do it. [...] Williamson massively overplays the testing card. Says teachers will do the testing with the help of the army. [...] PM is completely seduced by the testing plans proposed. Dido admits we don't even have the number of tests required to do this. We will be taking tests away from NHS. PM saying the whole thing will suppress the R. This is an incredibly difficult decision... Gove says 'CMO and CSA very balanced &amp; in this meeting they have given a clear warning we should heed that warning.' PM concludes meeting says 1st schools must go back on 4th with testing. He also supports plans for getting 2<sup>o</sup> schools back. They have been warned."</p>	16-17

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
03.01.21	"The NHS in London is in real trouble. The govt needs to lock down more firmly & to take the advice on schools [...] Called Chris & agreed he should pull a group together to listen directly. He is worried about individual extremist views [...] Schools is a complete mess largely due to DFE."	19

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
04.01.21	<p>"8am meeting with subgroup chairs. Lots of gloom about situation. Schools are a mess.</p> <p>Covid PM. New restrictions have been cobbled together looks like back to March. PM says 'It is going to knock my India trip on the head.' Gove argues for doing more, not less. they have the knives out for Williamson "DfE has been proved comprehensively wrong in every judgement over the past week". Even Simon Case now arguing for closing 1 ° schools (what a difference a week makes!)"</p>	21

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
25.01.21	<p>"Clear that the Cx has got to him. He has been gung ho on opening up all day. PM seemed surprised that people could come to UK from SA by routes other than direct flights. All highly reminiscent of the discussion last March &amp; we reiterated the basic principles then sudden enthusiasm for tagging. Concludes he wants a policy that looks ok because he doesn't really think we can stop entry of virus &amp; he doesn't want to be left with no way out of a policy 'whether the policy makes any sense at all I don't care any more.' Basically they made up policy on the hoof. He concluded 'Grade A - it is ineffective, inoperable and incoherent.' Let's go with that."</p>	51

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
25.01.21	"PM says 15M Vx Feb 15, 20M March 1st, April 30M & by then we must do something. Says he wants Tier 3 March 1 Tier 2 April 1 & Tier 1 May 1st & nothing by September...ends by saying the team must bring in the 'pro death squad' from HMT."	51

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
19.02.21	"PM Dashboard - Taken through the graphs but it was a real struggle to get him to understand them."	74

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
28.04.21	"Pre-meet on Step 4 - expectations the Cx will push for complete opening up on June 21st. We discussed that the economic analysis is presented as 'fact' whereas it has largely been wrong. Issue of sick pay for self-isolation was stressed again (but apparently HMT very opposed)."	127

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
13.05.21	"PM meeting - Cx suddenly pipes up on incentives already in place. Argues that we should let this rip a bit."	138

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
27.05.21	"It is true that Matt Hancock lies in meetings. He gets over-excited - then just says stuff."	152

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
13.06.21	"Free meals in holidays came up for children. Jack Doyle pointed out that this had been a political mess and why would they stop this before all the other things like furlough. Cx and Chief Whip dig in and say, 'Good working people pay for their children to eat and don't want freeloaders'."	168

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
02.07.21	<p>"PM meeting - Cx pushes very hard for faster opening up and fuller opening up, getting rid of all restrictions. Repeats his [...] mantra, 'We either believe in the vaccine or we don't.' I pointed out we would be facing a lockdown now if it were not for the Vx. PM says what will we do if we make masks voluntary, what will ministers say they will do 'Sometimes I will, sometimes I won't wear one.' 'Are we going to encourage people to wear masks?' 'Are we going to continue this bollocks?' he says. Wants everyone back at work. 'We can't have the bollocks of consulting with employees and trade unions. They need to all come back to work.' 'All the malingering work shy people' says how much of CS is back ' how would you be able to tell' he says Saj argues for caution. Basically it is PM and Cx against a more cautious Gove and Saj. PM in a bad mood. Ends by joking ' please record that you have overcome by natural caution + bullied me into opening up' The whole meeting was political posturing. CMO and I made risks very clear. Covid O [...] nearly all of them super keen to remove all restrictions. [...] Barclay says social distancing should also be removed in hospitals."</p>	184-185

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
20.07.21	"It is clear that once again DHSC has done nothing [...] Meeting with Gove- [...] policy meeting trying to look at risks for winter- no one had looked at AMS report or [...] report - it was a [...] with people just lobbing in [...] points + no clear operational accountability. [...]"	202 - 203

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
26.10.21	"Economic predictions! HMT saying economy nearly back to normal + Plan B would cost 18bn. No evidence. No transparency. Pure dogma + wrong throughout"	255

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
26.11.21	<p>"How bad is this? We don't know. JVT says he has never seen NERVTAG so rattled. We need a policy re antivirals-discussed with JVT [...] No 10 meeting PM very down about new Variant. Exasperated. Afterwards, No 10 says they are at war with No 11 + that anything Javid says they assume is wrong. They say they are missing Gove."</p>	269

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
08.12.21	<p>“Covid O- Coffey, Zahawi, Kwarteng, Gove, someone for OCHS (Nigel?), Cx, PM, Javid, Shapps pre-chat amongst themselves whilst reading the Plan B paper [...] they have just over exaggerated everything, except the 1 st time when they did nothing, says Coffey. Harper says “This is just like a cold now. How infectious is a cold. We don't stop the economy for a cold”. Very cross about slow roll out of boosters + how many people aren't Vx. They are also moaning about projections “I have always been very cautious about projections” says CMO [...].</p> <p>Then PM arrives - starts to talk about need to have societal discussion (echoes of [...]). People moan about Vx + suggest let it rip. Kwarteng Says “must stop the pingdemic” without thinking of the logic that it simply reflects high infection numbers! Economic arguments are thrown in about economic collapse with no data or evidence - esp by Cx [...] I stressed that we know this has been ↑ growth but we do not know it has ↑ transmissibility. It could be immune escape. Cx clearly doesn't want to act or buy Rx “Ok but then don't ask me for money for rail, school etc etc. If I spend on this I can't spend on other things.” Argues that this must be modelable with such 1° transmission surely it is all going to spread anyway + we should just let it (logical but nasty).</p> <p>Also - we know about growth but not about transmissibility. Lots of (fair) push on exit plan- we suggest data on Vx, severity, spread/growth + hospitalisations. Jeremy H + SoS health start talking about 1 M cases by 2017 [...]. They latch on to it. They also latch on to clutch at all straws “it's less severe” “SA isn't UK” “no one has been ill in SA”. Gove fires a passionate rocket saying Plan B isn't enough. It is a well argued intervention but he concludes with “It is pointless, no one is listening”. Feels like March 2020 all over again.”</p>	282-285

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
17.12.21	<p>"Coffey says 'If this is like a cold, why do people need to isolate!' [...] Gove again comes across as the voice of reason + understands how bad this is [...] PM meeting says 'I am particularly keen to get some voices of reason' then says 'well all are reasonable but we need some counter views + some moral philosophy in how we are going to handle this + live with Covid - [...] PM says 'I am weary of fighting this fight. Frost says 'you know my general view in this' 'And we should publish it all' [...] + then questions NPIs. [...] says he thinks mo [crossed out] NPIs do not work. PM says, 'I don't know how I can survive a press conference saying I wouldn't do anything with this level of hospitalisations + death.' We give the evidence carefully + calmly. PM concludes by saying I think we should bolster Plan B to [...] for a bit until the boosters are due. 'I need different [...] pairs of eyes on it'. 'I want a proper discussion in cabinet. I can't just tell them again in a call as a fait accompli' [...] They are appropriately nervous about the scale of the decision."</p>	301

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.12.21	<p>"Cabinet pre brief. We gave it very hard + straight. They can be in no doubt that we are in trouble. It is moving fast, + action is needed now [...] Ministers keep pushing on data that are missing. They just want more data + to avoid making a decision. Shapps starts projecting his own data slides on deaths in S.A. Moggs says 'this has been going on for 2 years + people know what actions to take. People know how to live with it'</p> <p>Jack [...] "we have to ask ourselves do we believe in the Vx + our Rx. We are being held to ransom by anti Vx people."</p> <p>Takes the Dougie line of not allowing UnVx people into hospital Moggs says "there must be another delay to allow parliament to discuss before action is taken" They are all saying it will be "fatal" for the PM to act before parliament approves + "we will not allow him to do it"</p> <p>[...] It is as though they can wish it all away with arguments.</p> <p>The Cabinet is [...] now looking at Sunak + Truss [in box] Health Secretary not invited to the meeting yesterday - quite extraordinary - Frost + Cx but no SoS DHSC - WTF [...].</p> <p>PM meeting [...] - we think that Cx is trying to delay a decision until it is too late + then will say 'I wasn't given enough information on which to make a decision.' PM starts about his anxiety about NPIs + whether we lose public credibility. And says there are a lot of things we just don't know [...] says 1 why is SA plateauing 2 Are we ignoring the behaviour change already taken place</p> <p>3 Boosters should be the focus 4 What are we trying to achieve. He says "I am sure people are going into hospital with covid who don't need it."</p>	302-303

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.12.21	<p>"Ridley lays it out well + says shutting indoor hospitality + large events. Cx argues that these measures will cause a bigger recession than 70s, 80s + 90s.                      Rishi says 'I don't think that the evidence is compelling enough + there is no urgency' [...] Says 'I think the model shows that herd immunity is the way through this.</p> <p>PM buys the argument that endlessly waiting for more data is not going to get us to a clear answer in time for a decision. PM says "at the end we need to recognise that people pay their taxes for the government to protect them against awful things like plague. But we need to tell them the downsides. We can't have furlough with people lounging around in the amniotic fluid of the government's largesse</p> <p>PM says "Patrick, Chris + I need to have a discussion with the public"                      PM says that if he delays + delays he will end up doing something just before Christmas.                      Rishi says that policy will be dictated by the Opposition.                      PM says "I think people are feeling shame faced about their voting last week"                      Cx says "I don't think they are PM"                      PM says "I don't think we can get any changes through Cabinet"                      PM ends by saying "I can't just do nothing. I am going to have to speak to Cabinet colleagues again"                      CMO surprisingly says "we should know this week whether it is very mild"                      PM "All those doughty libertarians will not be with us when things get tough"</p>	304-305

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
23.12.21	"Ian Diamond called + ONS numbers ↑↑ Apparently Steve Barclay (CDL) suggesting yesterday that I am over-egging it. He also says 'let it rip' + get it over + done with."	315

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
31.12.21	<p>"[...] Cx comes in "I agree with you PM. Almost everything we worried about 3 weeks ago has turned out at the most optimistic end of our worries." Cx comes in to say reintroducing anything like Step 2 puts the economy into the biggest recession since 70 years [crossed out] the great frost (what data!!) PM says "we will probably get an NHS challenge but maybe that is a political challenge". Cx argues 'a prolonged period of disruption at a lower level is probably worse than a shorter period at a higher level.' PM says, "I think this will be a short-lived hurricane". Steffan gives dashboard + points out that we are 1 doubling away from admissions last Jan. We discuss the biology of the virus a bit and more URTI. CMO says admissions 1/3 incidental covid 1/3 classical lung presentation 1/3 just "unwell". PM ends with "Great news. Masterly inactivity is our plan. Happy New Year". CMO calls after the call to say "we laid it out. They've heard it" Criticised the Cx for his [...] comments about 2 weeks more measures causing the biggest depression since the great frost - ludicrous. Once again bizarre to have this meeting without SoS DHSC!"</p>	325-326

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
10.01.22	"Vx uptake is going up + down quickly depending on HMG messaging. Apparently HMT totally against continued spend on Vx (unbelievable!!!)."	334-335

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
12.01.22	"CMO now gravely warning of a plateau having been rather dogmatic about a quick up + down."	338

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
19.01.22	"Public health policy dog being wagged by right wing political necessities.....CMO+ I give a warning to stay cautious. SoS DHSC reinforces that. Coffey objects to even the mild caution about people still wearing masks."	341

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19.01.22	"Public health policy dog being wagged by right wing political necessities."	341

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
14.02.22	"CMO argues strongly for retaining clear policy of public health warning on keeping self isolation etc. They <u>all</u> (i.e. the politicians) want to stop payments for self-isolation. HMT wants to stop self isolation in guidance + law on Feb 24th. PM wants to get rid of testing. HMT want "a Vx led strategy" with little use of antivirals + much less testing."	349

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
16.02.22	"BBB. Ian D says how wrong economic modelling has been throughout the pandemic. Report today shows that WFH has had little or any impact on productivity."	350

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
17.02.22	"The living with Covid plans are worrying us. Stop everything + no plan on how to re start if needed."	350

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
18.02.22	"A lot of work to get the whole living with covid thing in the right place. HMT want to cull everything [...] CDL reports that PM has instructed him to go with the minimum possible as we live with covid. CMO + I laid out the situation + the risks. Cx - says Ok with principles but wants to know how this will be paid for."	351

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
20.02.22	'Papers full of speculation and commentary on 'living with covid' [...] "The paper itself still lacks specifics on a robust + rapid response. CMO + I have given comments."	352

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
21.02.22	"Chaos over the plans. Funding not agreed. SoS DH + HMT at odds [...]. It is really all chaotic. Went through everything line by line. We press 3 points - Detect, respond + Protect (the vulnerable!) but remind him we can't comment on costs [...]. "Have we just agreed to give SoS even more than he asked for!! - No but we did protect the ONS survey." Coffey [...] - saying go into work if you are unwell. Doesn't want people to self-isolate even if unwell."	352-353

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
07.02.21	"CMO talked afterwards about inquiry - was lockdown too late in March, could we have known (he was a delayer of course). Regrets we had re press - "fatigue" "herd immunity" "20,000" & the graphs. we have learnt a lot."	66

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
25.05.20	<p>"Chris and I not at all keen to do the press conference. All highly political and dwarfed by DC. We tried to get out of it by suggesting that it was not the right day to announce new measures and that this would undermine our credibility. No luck - Simon Case had a go but to no avail.... We both went in but then spoke to Stuart G who spoke to PM. We interrupted listening to DC's rambling and car crash conference to speak to PM. He got immediately that this was too political for us and that it put us in an awkward position. The apparatchiks tried to strong arm us (Lee, James and even Martin his PPS). DC came back from his press conference and said "you two shouldn't be involved" - we got out! Yvonne Doyle did it - just did study and then all over to PM."</p>	46

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
09.07.20	"PM cancelled the big announcement and has gone more cautious (for now). Simon Case taking 1 day at a time. PM is simply not consistent (as he wasn't at the beginning)."	85

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
17.07.20	<p>"Call with Mark Sedwill. -very helpful. His point about inquiry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How well prepared were we (contingency planning) - previous govt choices CONTINGENCY</li> <li>2. Did we take the right decisions</li> <li>3. Did we present the evidence fairly</li> <li>4. Did the system respond</li> </ol> <p>[...] "Also "clear lack of grip in DHSC" - very good at analysis, no grip on actions                      - SEDWILL"</p>	91

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
30.08.20	"Email from within DHSC describes it as "ungovernable and a web of competing parts" [...]"	133

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.10,20	"Ridley meeting - positioned PM meeting as 'a chance to step back / but avoid making a whole load of decisions that then get undone by Cx' I asked what PM thinks objectives are 'what he wants to achieve is a series of mutually incompatible options' He 'owns the reality for a day and then is buffeted by a discussion with Cx'."	238

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
17.04.20	"Press conference with Alok Sharma and Yvonne Doyle [...] Yvonne opened up the only two areas we agreed to steer clear of - ethnicity (we don't have the answer yet) and she wasn't even asked the question [...]"	16

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
11.06.20	"Slater basically described keeping Gavin Williamson away from policy development but give him some illusion of ownership 'but not his area and not his expertise'. [...] 'I don't know what Gavin's plan for schools is but probably pretty feeble' PM."	62

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.10.20	<p>"PM meeting - begins with argue for letting it all rip. Saying yes there will be casualties but so be it. "they have had a good innings" - not persuaded by Edmunds, Ferguson, Farrar. [...] PM getting very frustrated - throwing papers down. PM then back on to "most people who die have reached their time anyway". DC arguing we need to save lives - it is not democratically possible to [follow] another route. PM suddenly "why aren't we testing people and arresting them if they don't isolate" "they are wrecking our country". DC argued again (rightly) that a lockdown's coming and therefore do it sooner rather than later. [...] PM concludes "looks like we are in really tough spot, a complete shambles" "I really don't want to do another national lockdown". PM told that if he wants to go down this route of letting it go "you need to tell people - you need to tell them you are going to allow people to die". [...] PM "This is all bad on every level" but "we are not going to be stampeded into a national lockdown"."</p>	238-239

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
30/06/21	<p>"Dashboard - ONS shows big increase in numbers since last week (nearly a doubling). And rates very clearly up in children. Williamson comes in + says children shouldnt be asked to do things adults aren't but then has no knowledge of the on-going study. The Saj comes in + says study will only determine policy for next term. They start to make policy on the hoof with the Saj + Williamson jostling for dominance + airtime. [...] PM pushes for a decision. Just about to make it + then Gove comes in and asks (i) remember this is about spread in community not children (ii) how effective is current policy (iii) remember there are only 3 weeks of term left. As always he is the most logical. [...] said afterwards that he is very worried by his new SoS "never wants to learn before a decision" + that he will rush into macho right wing decisions playing to the audience [...]"</p>	183

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
02/07/21	<p>"PM meeting - Cases ↑. Hospital admissions up. PM looks downbeat + talks of grim predictions. Saj says "we are going to have to learn to live with it" "and die with it" says PM. Cx pushes very hard for faster opening up + fuller opening up. Getting rid of all restrictions. Repeats his [...] mantra "we either believe in the Vx or we don't". I pointed out we would be facing a lockdown now if it were not for the Vx. PM says what will we do if we make masks voluntary. What will ministers say they will do "sometimes I will, sometimes I won't wear one". "Are we going to encourage people to wear masks? Are we going to continue with this bollocks" he says wants everyone back at work "we can't have the bollocks of consulting with employees + trade unions. They need to all come back to work." "All the malingering work shy people" says how much of CS is back "how would you be able to tell" he says. Saj argues for caution. Basically it is PM + Cx against a more cautious Gove + Saj. PM in a bad mood. Ends by joking "please record that you have overcome my natural caution + bullied me into opening up". The whole meeting was political posturing. CS people worried. CMO + I made risks very clear."</p>	184-185

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
05/07/21	<p>"PM chaired Covid O. PM says that cases still going up but wants a "very considerable package of freedoms". Williamson keen to say bubbles in schools should be stopped today + announced today. Saj comes in + says message is pandemic is far from over + link between cases + hospitalisation is weakened but not broken. PM says "decision to postpone was the right one as it gave us more time to Vx + shows that we have broken the link between cases + hospitalisations"."</p>	188

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
31/12/21	"31/12/21 PM meeting "Home Team" - smaller group than dashboard. PM starts with "we are already in Plan B. It is very clear speaking to Saj that there are very few things to do short of full lockdown. The argument for further NPIs are incredibly weak" "what I find unpalatable is some melange of step 2 measures. I don't believe they would make a blind bit of difference". He wants to let it rip through, strengthen NHS + reduce isolation time to 5 days. [...] CMO puts the counter view, stressing measures would pull peak down + prevent "overshoot"."	324-325

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
28/04/20	"Morning PM meeting - he is very worried that UK will look worst in Europe. Lots of pressure to change reporting to deaths/million. MH very defensive of PPE & TTT. Care homes - at least being taken seriously. Ros Roughton (civil servant) has done a good job MH said "should we nationalise the social care sector"."	23

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25/09/20	<p>“Cases, admissions and deaths all ↑. PM obsessed with testing again. “Are people actually doing the self isolation" I argued that low levels of isolation is the key. They of course go straight to "enforcement". Hancock argues that it is all OK from Monday. PM says "we must have known this wasn't working - we have been pretending it has been whereas secretly we know it hasn't been” Hancock lets out a big sigh. [...] Simon arguing "surely we can find the specific places where transmission is taking place and just close them". PM "Punish people who don't self isolate" "Punish people who aren't doing the right thing" "Close some pubs and bars" "We need a lot more punishments and a lot more closing down". I put a message in chat that support and engagement very important to get adherence up. Strong argument from Cx about not allowing universities back. Dismissed by MH and PM. PM ends with "Massive fines massive fines"."</p>	185-186

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
12.07.20	"PM still wants to push opening too fast."	88

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
17.06.20	<p>"PM meeting - all every excited by "speeding up". "That will cheer Rishi up". [...]. Deighton said "we are still a bit tight on gloves and masks and that's a bit hand to mouth". Don't think he meant to make a joke. I mentioned backward contact tracing again. PM "are we now hysterical about the nosocomial problem", Simon Stevens "yes PM we are calm, collected and focussed on it as you say."</p>	66

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
19.06.20	<p>"Morning PM meeting [...]. We need "a full throttle approach". Wants everything normal by September and only deal with things locally and regionally. He is now completely bullish about opening everything - as CW said it is so inconsistent. It is like "bipolar decision making" [...] Everyone now obsessed with children losing out. [...]. Mark W said "much easier to be the umpire than the player". Gove said "challenge people to back the Gavster" meaning Gavin Williamson ... so hip.</p> <p>The narrative is becoming [...] Disease in retreat. We have tools to tackle it. Children are a low risk. etc etc get on with it."</p>	68

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
22.06.20	<p>"[...]. SACN and PHE have done a much better review of Vit D that will be published this week [...]. PM - "what is wrong with this country, why won't they go back to school". "Why can't we make it compulsory to go to school". "We can't have this national caterwauling and then parents refusing to send kids back to school". "People need their spines stiffened". When he is taken through data he is very slow. It is like a remedial student and he needs to keep going over it (today it was deaths in care homes vs domiciliary). Dido talked about the facts on cluster identification, and backward contact tracing. "Have you got a top team of cluster busters."</p>	70

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
13.07.20	"PM meeting. Schools not going back enough. "They are just skiving and bludging". Masks. Are we going to have to ask bank robbers to start wearing masks". The ridiculous flip flopping is getting worse (maybe as he recovers?)."	88

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.06.20	<p>"I texted Chris "you can see where this is going". Answer "Yes". PM can't resist his private voice "R". MH credited CW with the "3 epidemics". Whereas in fact that was me and some time ago. Cx convinced that changes aren't making any quick changes to behaviours. CMO said "We think that people who don't have symptoms are not as infectious" - where is that from! PM meetings - worried about diverging SAGE because of the blame that will be attached to him if it goes wrong. "It's a nightmare situation" - but "I have concluded that I can't go too far against the science". But "this is my decision and I need to cop the flack". Now blaming the BLM and the "Cummings Riots" on people not being able to see their relatives. PM "This is not pure political arse covering". "I am normally gung ho and take [...] but I am nervous". He is still coughing. This whole meeting is a negotiation where he wants to get a scientific approval for what he wants to do and he needs to manage his Cx."</p>	58-59

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
09.06.20	<p>"Times has piece about Andrew Parker saying that [I&amp;S] was ready in Feb because he listened to me and CW (he did) [...]. Apparently PM is finding this all very difficult. - looked awful in meeting with CMO and Simon Case etc with me on phone "A man finding leadership difficult". Simon says he is quite frail on all this. Had a shouty meeting with Cx who wants everything open but was challenged by PM on "tell me what difference the 8 days until July 4th would make for hospitality sector". Cx unable to respond. Cx quite good at cherry picking when other countries are opening up and making it sound like they have all gone further than us."</p>	59

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.07.20	<p>"[...] Hancock came in and said delay the August 1st additional measures opening up. But the PM says he wants to stick with August 1st measures. Rishi getting very excited about it all and suggesting everyone gets tested at work. "It's perfectly obvious to me this could get out of control again" PM. Dido was very robust.</p> <p>"This is why you had these incredible sights of people being put in filing cabinets in China" PM. For Rishi - it is all about personal responsibility and get the state out. PM "We will have a complete re-run of March". Lots of talk about needing "to take decisive action against the second wave."</p>	100

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
03.08.20	<p>"PM meeting - shown 3 lines in a graph, one going up, one stable and one just trickling up. "Which one is stable?" - he clearly doesn't read graphs well. Hancock "we have had a great [...] in the new tests that have come through" - but what are they!! [...]. Cx wants everyone back to normal - eating at restaurants etc. PM wants an update on "Operation Spitfire" or "Operation great expecorations". Crazy discussion at the end when none of them could remember what the rules were and who could meet who and where and when. CMO privately - if numbers go up in Manchester again then we may come out of delusion-land."</p>	108

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
12.08.20	<p>"[...] PM very agitated about getting new higher throughput tests going. Freaked out because apparently Cx told him this morning that there is no money for an SR. [...].</p> <p>[...] Then 2 hrs with PM, DC, CMO, Case, Mirza and a couple of others in next 8/12. Imran set us up well with some facts and figures and built from the what we know, what we don't know paper. Then did 4 big areas - Behaviours, tracing the virus, outbreak management and is the NHS ready. We voted - red, amber, yellow. 1st 2 got lots of reds and ambers. Instincts of this crew is to go for more enforcement and punitive measures. We suggested that more carrot and incentives required to make people take a test, self-isolate etc but they always want to go for stick not carrot."</p>	117

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.09.20	<p>"Things are hotting up. [...].</p> <p>[...]. Gove "can we run this hotter" - then said he was simply playing Devil's advocate and was doing it for good governance and evidence-based decision making. Cx wanted to carry on with pilots, didn't want any more obligations on business "my view is balance of risks has changed, we should open things". I made the point about having to give incentives for self isolation - PM agreed and said he would take it up with Cx afterwards Chris and I were aligned and presented what needs to be done. I left the call. Apparently it descended into chaos and CMO not clear where it will land."</p>	146-147

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
18.09.20	<p>"[...] Case arguing for waiting for higher consequences "As people will". Cummings spoke persuasively on urgent and real action. Why wait and then do it? Do it now and get on top of it. Lee says "C&amp;P have been saying all this for months. But what is the strategy for next 6 months". The whole meeting was about managing Rishi. Then Case WhatsApps late to say PM doesn't want to do anything currently! Apparently also called CMO to say "vaccine nearly here"."</p>	167

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
07.10.20	<p>"7pm. Urgent meeting on mass testing with Cummings called. JB saying lateral flows all good to go and that we should "kill the request for contacts of positives to self isolate"!! Long discussion and agreed that Universities should mass test students with LAMP, and that lateral flows for schools and other institutions.</p> <p>Cummings wants to use that to open pubs etc - clear input from Cx. We were all a bit. Cummings talking about "optimising for dying vs optimising for economy" - Cx clearly got to him."</p>	208-209

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.10.20	<p>“Very bad meeting in no 10. [...] Spelled out (arrow facing up) numbers 100k, 40k / day. Hospitals filling up. ICU (arrow facing up) and deaths &gt; 100 / day in 2 weeks time. Simon Stevens said no of people in hospital has gone from 500 → 3000 over September. PM talks of Medieval measures than ones being suggested. "Perhaps we should look at another approach and apply different values". "Surely this just sweeps through in waves like other natural phenomena and there is nothing we can do". As Simon Ridley said final slide, PM said "whiskey and a revolver". He was all over the place. Cx using increasingly specific and spurious arguments against closing hospitality. Both of them clutching at straws.”</p>	210

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
16.10.20	<p>"[...] PM now obsessed with average age of death being 82 "longer than average life expectancy", "Get Covid live longer". Prep for press conference [...]. PM says Rishi is going bonkers and needs a lot of hand holding and Matt Hancock is cocking up. Case says "the steady hand of the PM on the tiller PM". Steve [...] says travel to work is up to 65%. PM "that's good" and then shrieks in mock embarrassment and says oh no, it's not is it. Shows what he really thinks. Says at one point "I have no optimism left I have had it all sucked out of me" - half joking. Press conference OK but I suspect we will get flak."</p>	225-226

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.10.20	<p>"[...] Ridley meeting - positioned PM meeting as "a chance to step back/ but avoid making a whole load of decisions that then get undone by Cx". I asked what PM thinks objectives are "what he wants to achieve is a series of mutually incompatible options". He "owns the reality for a day and then is buffeted by a discussion with Cx". PM meeting - begins with argue for letting it all rip. Saying yes there will be casualties but so be it. "they have had a good innings". -not persuaded by Edmunds, Ferguson, Farrar. PM says "the population just has to behave doesn't it! Heat maps "I have the necrotising maps" so depressing."</p>	238

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
21.12.20	"[...] Schools PM say "SoS out there pounding the teaching unions who are saying they don't want to teach anyone anything anywhere - which is why they came into teaching of course". They are going to have to do something in schools despite their resistance."	6

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
04.01.21	<p>"8am meeting with subgroup chairs. Lots of gloom about situation. Schools are a mess [...].</p> <p>[...] Good news in an email from JVT - Tocilizumab. (IL-6) works! 25% ↓ in ICU mortality. Dashboard PM. Huge numbers &gt;75k on 29th Dec. &amp; 17% +ve. In London 26% of tests +ve. NHS occupancy ↑ 25% in a week something needs to happen. Covid PM. New restrictions have been cobbled together looks like back to March. PM says "It is going to knock my India trip on the head". Gove argues for doing more not less. they have the knives out for Williamson "DfE has been proved comprehensively wrong in every judgement over the past week". Even Simon Case now arguing for closing 1 ° schools (what a difference a week makes!)."</p>	21

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
25.01.21	"Clear that the Cx has got to him. He has been gung ho about opening up all day."	51

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
29.01.21	<p>"Dashboard. Differences between Pillar 2 &amp; ONS/REACT noted. Probably due to (i) testing behaviour &amp; (ii) LFTs being used more by Pillar 2 &amp; of course they show (arrow pointing down) positivity. PM excited about having seen genomic lab yesterday at some point he says "God this is a stubborn disease". Deaths just turning the corner. Whatever scientists he met yesterday said the new vaccine may not be the cause of the (arrow pointing up). (helpful! NOT!). [...].</p> <p>Deaths higher than other countries PM shouts "we are too fat". [...] PM - opening up/ Vx. Almost entirely for show with PM taking a "open it all up" approach for the benefit of Cx. But we managed to push. Data dependant (Gove helpful) &amp; measure measure measure."</p>	57

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
16.02.21	<p>"[...] PM meeting on Covid [...]. Then Bowler says thank you for your comments yesterday they were really helpful. PM says "they weren't meant to be" ... I thought it was an awful meeting - &amp; when Hancock texted me saying how good it was I knew it was a disaster. PM keeps saying "the whole thing has been appalling", Says he is indifferent to what happens &amp; says "I know I sound like a broken man" - then he perks up. Lots of discussion about how noisy with press opening up will be. He says public wanted slower, press wanted faster last time the public were right. Says he feels like he is guilty "Nam flashbacks". Did we make a decision at the meeting? Not clear. Cx clearly still pushing hard for early opening of retail &amp; other sectors."</p>	71-72

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
18.12.21	<p>"Virus evolution meeting. Clear agreement we need to get UK Hub set up. Evolution will continue &amp; one day will evade immunity. Biggest pressure now is transmission advantage. PM meeting - he is coming out of Cabinet room sees us &amp; says "OMG what now, what are you here for? This never ends well. Is it a meeting with me". We have a meeting on roadmap. Cx is pushy now not to allow any outdoor activity if he can't have retail. We go back and forth a bit. PM asks when he can go to Chequers again "not until the May step" - he groans when told. We suggest he has a Pavlovian response to seeing us now - one of gloom &amp; despondency."</p>	73

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
14.05.21	"[...] PM looks ragged & dejected. Cx supports not delaying step 3 & says more deaths OK & that "from business perspective confidence is better if we go ahead". Hancock agrees & says just surge test & surge Vx - send in General Messenger (really! the army into Bolton as the solution?). Simon Case & others say tiering didn't work."	140

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
02.07.21	"PM meeting Cases (arrow pointing up). hospital admissions up. PM looks downbeat + talks of grim predictions. Saj says 'we are going to have to learn to live with it' 'and die with it' says PM. Cx pushes very hard for faster opening up+ fuller opening up. Getting rid of all restrictions."	184

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.12.21	<p>"[...] Ridley lays it out well + says shutting indoor hospitality + large events. Cx argues that these measures will cause a bigger [...] than [...] Os, 80s + 90s. Henry Cook reports Netherlands going into a complete lockdown, Rishi says "I don't think that the evidence is completely enough + there is no urgency". "I would err on the side of waiting". Says "I think the model shows that herd immunity is the way through this"."</p>	304

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
19.12.21	<p>"The Govt is in chaos because the PM has lost authority. He has called CMO suggesting we return to "shielding" + forgo other measures (deja vu 2020) even though we know this doesn't work. [...]. 6:30pm call with Gove + Simon Clarke. They want info to fight the people who don't want to move. [...]. Asked about shielding. Gove + Simon Clarke (CST) seen to be pro action. Sounds like PM will not move this week. Cx still very opposed to any move."</p>	306-307

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
21.12.21	"Have I lost a page from Sat 18th. I think I didn't record end of the PM meeting at 4pm. [...]. With Cx firmly against moves + no Sos present. [...] says he is trying to dip Cx hands in blood. (Found it! written along the side). Today lots of countries acting - but not us, PM is reported as saying the decision is "finely balanced". Once again we are quick with the science (others are asking us for it) + slow with the reaction."	310

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061</b>	<b>Page</b>
10.07.20	"[...] PM will do a face coverings message. Chris spoke well about taking a balanced approach. I said measure as we go and make those numbers public. Also don't do things that back you into a corner re school openings."	86

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
30.03.20	"All departments should use their plans & activate ([...] what action actually happened)."	2

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
30.03.20	"NHS absent or very low key at COBR. Bed numbers - we keep asking for & not getting - Why not ramping pandemic flu plans?"	3

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
15.10.20	"SAGE pushing for "can't we exempt children from rule of 6" - we said no not unless CO want to revisit."	223

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282</b>	<b>Page</b>
21.05.21	"Says he [PM] isn't very persuaded by long Covid."	149