

73. Additionally, during the meeting Stephen Powis and Patrick Vallance questioned the modellers on why they were so sure that suppression of the virus, in line with what was being done in China and South Korea, was not viable. The response from Graham Medley and John Edmonds was that suppression was not viable because as soon as a lockdown was lifted the virus would spike back up, implying there was no point. Graham Medley and John Edmonds, both stated that they were 100% sure about this. This gave me great concern as, in the world of probability, no one would ever say that they were 100% sure. It indicated over-confidence in the model, and they were discounting any possibility that we might be able to get in place a more sophisticated form of suppression (such as a functioning app or measures such as I had suggested in my emails over previous days). Due to this, the confusion regarding the NHS capacity, and other issues such as the very low level of testing capacity and ambition, I wrote in my notebook 'WE ARE NOT READY'. A No 10 colleague leaned over, crossed out 'NOT READY', and wrote 'Fucked!' **[DH/57 - INQ000129100]**.
74. I was under the impression that the penny had dropped at that meeting for several people in the room, that the anchoring in the SAGE modelling was problematic and others in the room also felt that we should have been pursuing suppression strategies.
75. Following the meeting, I sent a text message to Matt Hancock who was not present (at the SAGE meeting) asking whether he received a readout; Matt Hancock had not. He called me back to speak about what happened. I told Matt that I felt that the penny had dropped that we really needed to do something about suppression and locking down. When I said this to Matt, he said words to the effect of "that is the best news I have heard all week". My impression was that Matt was relieved the penny was dropping as he felt that stronger and more immediate action was necessary and we could not just wait for the unstoppable wave.
76. On 14 March 2020, I sent an email to Will Warr, Keith Willett, Patrick Vallance, Duncan Selbie, Sharon Peacock and the private secretary for Matt Hancock, regarding incentivising car manufacturers to assist in making ventilators **[DH/58 - INQ000129051]**.
77. On 14 March 2020, I was copied on an email from Will Warr indicating that John Bell was offering to give a Roche testing machine which did 5000 Covid tests per day and asking how many machines would be required. I also received an email from Patrick Vallance indicating FDA approval of the Roche test. In my response I noted that it was