

Message

From: Name Redacted [Name Redacted@no10.gov.uk]
on behalf of Name Redacted [Name Redacted@no10.gov.uk] NR [NR@no10.gov.uk]
Sent: 25/02/2020 18:54:11
To: 'Katharine Hammond' [katharine.hammond@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
CC: Control, CCS - Cabinet Office; I&S [I&S@no10.gov.uk]; Imran Shafi [IShafi@no10.gov.uk] NR [NR@no10.gov.uk]; NR [NR@no10.gov.uk]; NR [NR@no10.gov.uk]; Edward Lister [ELister@no10.gov.uk]; Dominic Cummings [DCummings@no10.gov.uk]; Martin Reynolds [MReynolds@no10.gov.uk]; Ben Warner [BWarner@no10.gov.uk] NR [NR@no10.gov.uk]; James Slack [JSlack@no10.gov.uk]; Lee Cain [LCain@no10.gov.uk] NR [NR@no10.gov.uk]
Subject: Readout and actions: PM meeting on Coronavirus [OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE]

Katharine,

The PM met the Health Secretary, Development Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Scientific Adviser and others for an update on Coronavirus. A few key actions emerged from the discussion:

- **Communications:** The PM gave a clear steer that we should remain consistent in our position regarding flights. The UK's decision to keep flights going was based on medical advice. It was important to have a clear, consistent and evidenced based narrative on this.
- **Repatriation:** The Health Secretary flagged that a G7 discussion would take place tomorrow regarding the position of G7 members on repatriation. But to be clear, there was no decision on the UK's overall position regarding repatriations. Further advice will need to be provided to the PM on this before a decision is made.
- **International taskforce:** DFID Secretary of State updated on the additional funding that DFID would be providing to WHO. She flagged her concerns around the International Taskforce, in particular FCO staff were rotating in and out frequently, and there was limited DHSC presence. She asked for assistance in strengthening both, and the Taskforce overall, noting we were no longer on crisis footing but needed to be prepared to staff this for the medium term. Grateful if CCS could work with DFID and FCO to strengthen the Taskforce and ensure it has a clear mandate, consistent staffing and reports clearly into COBR. The Foreign Secretary also emphasised the need to do more upstream work to support countries vulnerable to the spread of the virus. Grateful if CCS could ensure the Taskforce is clearly tasked to identify countries that are the most vulnerable to the outbreak and identify what support is being provided and by whom to support an effective response.
- **Domestic preparedness:** There was a discussion around the difficult decisions that the UK may need to make in the worst case scenario. Dominic Cummings made clear that No10 should see all the plans for what the UK would do in a worst case scenario, including comms plans. The Health Secretary confirmed that there would be a discussion on this with No10 the following day, and that all these plans would be shared. Off the back of this it was agreed that the PM needed more information on this. CCS grateful if you could provide a 4 to 5 page note for the PM, signed off by the Health Secretary, CMO/CSO and CCS, that highlights the most significant choices should a pandemic occur in the UK. It should also cover briefly the most important/contentious measures within emergency legislation. Grateful if we can get this by 11am on Friday to allow the PM to review over the weekend.
- **Iran:** There was an action on Iran which I've emailed separately on.

Grateful if CCS could disseminate and follow up on these actions as required.

Many thanks,

NR

NR

I&S

| Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) to the Prime Minister | 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA | Tel: