

Message

From: Ben Warner [nobody@invalid.invalid]
Sent: 25/01/2021 18:32:21
To: Philip.Duffy [philip.duffy@hmtreasury.gov.uk]
Subject: Re: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

Hi Phil,

Appreciate you taking the time to talk to me, it provided a very useful perspective.

As mentioned, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you or your team.

Regards,
Ben

From: "Duffy, Philip - HMT" <Philip.Duffy@hmtreasury.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 25 January 2021 at 17:43
To: Ben Warner <BWarner@no10.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

Hi Ben

Would you like a chat about this? I'm on I&S I can categorically assure you that no-one is trying to mislead anyone, which would be unethical.

Best
Philip

From: Ben Warner <BWarner@no10.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2021 15:36
To: Duffy, Philip - HMT <Philip.Duffy@hmtreasury.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

Hi Phil,

I am very concerned about HMT analysis around the Covid, and that it will lead to incorrect or misleading advice to the CX.

Below is an email from Angela that I think succinctly sets out my concerns.

I am unsure what it the right way to interact with HMT on this and help it improve, so I thought I would reach out to you as both CSA of HMT, and someone who has been incredibly helpful in the past.

Regards,
Ben

From: "McLean, Angela SCS (CSA-Personal)" <Angela.Mclean113@mod.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 25 January 2021 at 10:55
To: "rob.harrison" <rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, Ben Warner <BWarner@no10.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted] NR <[redacted]@no10.gov.uk>, "Gardiner, Clare" <Clare.Gardiner@dhsc.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

I have emailed Chris and Patrick saying HMT changed the model after I QA'd it and I don't know how. Anything HMT says about infectious disease modelling therefore has no endorsement from me - they are on their own. Given their inability to spot egregious errors in other things they were sent I do not have any confidence in their ability to hack a simple, sensible model.

However, I do think we should be building a fast loop where simple model generates specific questions and sophisticated models address them straight away. Clare, how is JBC getting on with running current SPI-M models?

Angela

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