

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...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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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 & 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

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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