

Message

From: Ed Lidington [ed.lidington@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
on behalf of Ed Lidington <ed.lidington@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> [ed.lidington@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Sent: 11/03/2020 18:49:11
To: Mark Sedwill [mark.sedwill@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
CC: John Owen [john.owen@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Helen MacNamara [helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Subject: Re: corona [OFFICIAL]
Attachments: Covid19 - HMG long term response.docx

Mark - I think Helen talked you through the thinking we'd been doing about the role of the Cabinet Office in this, and also our thoughts on decision making structures.

Attached are some rough thoughts we've put together. We had planned to polish this more and send to you at the end of the week, but it may be useful for you to see now given Dom's email. To summarise, we think we should move to daily PM COBRs now to head this off.

As you can't make 8.15 tomorrow, we'll get Sweeney to go back to Dom and say he can't make the meeting, but that we need to make sure that there are proper structures here to make decisions and that you'll be advising the PM on that (summary: we need daily PM COBRs).



Ed Lidington
Deputy Principal Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary
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On Wed, 11 Mar 2020 at 18:32, Mark Sedwill <mark.sedwill@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

OK. Fine for Mark S etc to go, but we are not running a dictatorship here and the PM is not taking nationally significant decisions with a bunch of No10 SpAds and no ministers, no operational experts and no scientists. If necessary, I will take over the 8:15 slot and chair a daily meeting myself.

On 11 Mar 2020, at 18:23, John Owen <john.owen@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

Mark, you will want to see the below emails from Sweeney and Dom. We are giving you a note this evening on our plan to address this but this is the background as to why we now need to move quickly.



John Owen
Principal Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary
E: john.owen@cabinetoffice.gov.uk T:
Follow us on Twitter @HeadUKCivServ @cabinetofficeuk

Irrelevant & Sensitive

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Sweeney** <mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, 11 Mar 2020 at 16:25

Subject: Fwd: corona [OFFICIAL]

To: Ed Lidington <ed.lidington@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, Helen MacNamara
<helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, John Owen <john.owen@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>,

To see.

You will have views on this especially after this afternoon's 415.

I think a meeting which has people from the Secretariat in it, is regular and does not have the scientists in it (for their protection) is actually not a bad idea to inject some order. It is also preferable to No 10 talking to themselves.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dominic Cummings** <DCummings@no10.gov.uk>

Date: Wed, 11 Mar 2020 at 16:06

Subject: corona [OFFICIAL]

To: Clare Brunton <CBrunton@no10.gov.uk>, Mark Sweeney - Cabinet Office - (OFFICIAL)

<mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Cc: Munira Mirza <MMirza@no10.gov.uk>, Imran Shafi <IShafi@no10.gov.uk>, Hammond, Katharine - Iraq Inquiry Secretariat (CONF) <Katharine.Hammond@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk>, Aiken, Alex - Cabinet Office (OFF-SEN) <alex.aiken@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

We need 815 no10 mtng in CAB room, chaired by me or lee, so we in position to answer Qs properly for PM at 9.

This morning's 815 mtng involved a load of people from comms baffled about POLICY and unable to make decisions or even knowing who is in charge of key policy areas – we need to bring key players together, cos shortly the PM is going to have to start making decisions daily at the 9 and we have to have these lined up, not 'we don't know who is doing this work' which is where we are now...

Need

Me/lee/slacky

Mark S

Wendy

A Aiken / hub people

PHE

NHS England

?K Hammond

DHSC spads

Cara Swinson (DHSC)

Imran

Ben Warner

Name Redacted

Munira

d

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