

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
20.07.21	"It is clear that once again DHSC has done nothing [...] Meeting with Gove- [...] policy meeting trying to look at risks for winter- no one had looked at AMS report or [...] report - it was a [...] with people just lobbying in [...] points + no clear operational accountability. [...]"	202 - 203

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26.11.21	<p>"How bad is this? We don't know. JVT says he has never seen NERVTAG so rattled. We need a policy re antivirals-discussed with JVT [...] No 10 meeting PM very down about new Variant. Exasperated. Afterwards, No 10 says they are at war with No 11 + that anything Javid says they assume is wrong. They say they are missing Gove."</p>	269

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.12.21	<p>"Cabinet pre brief. We gave it very hard + straight. They can be in no doubt that we are in trouble. It is moving fast, + action is needed now [...] Ministers keep pushing on data that are missing. They just want more data + to avoid making a decision. Shapps starts projecting his own data slides on deaths in S.A. Moggs says 'this has been going on for 2 years + people know what actions to take. People know how to live with it'</p> <p>Jack [...] "we have to ask ourselves do we believe in the Vx + our Rx. We are being held to ransom by anti Vx people."</p> <p>Takes the Dougie line of not allowing UnVx people into hospital Maggs says "there must be another delay to allow parliament to discuss before action is taken" They are all saying it will be "fatal" for the PM to act before parliament approves + "we will not allow him to do it"</p> <p>[...] It is as though they can wish it all away with arguments.</p> <p>The Cabinet is [...] now looking at Sunak + Truss (in box) Health Secretary not invited to the meeting yesterday - quite extraordinary - Frost + Cx but no SoS DHSC - WTF [...].</p> <p><u>PM meeting</u> [...] - we think that Cx is trying to delay a decision until it is too late + then will say 'I wasn't given enough information on which to make a decision.' PM starts about his anxiety about NPIs + whether we lose public credibility. And says there are a lot of things we just don't know [...] says 1 why is SA plateauing 2 Are we identifying the behaviour change already taken place</p> <p>3 Boosters should be the focus 4 What are we trying to achieve. He says "I am sure people are going into hospital with covid who don't need it."</p>	302-303

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30/06/21	<p>"Dashboard - ONS shows big increase in numbers since last week (nearly a doubling). And rates very clearly up in children. Williamson comes in + says children shouldnt be asked to do things adults aren't but then has no knowledge of the on-going study. The Saj comes in + says study will only determine policy for next term. They start to make policy on the hoof with the Saj + Williamson jostling for dominance + airtime. [...] PM pushes for a decision. Just about to make it + then Gove comes in and asks (i) remember this is about spread in community not children (ii) how effective is current policy (iii) remember there are only 3 weeks of term left. As always he is the most logical. [...] said afterwards that he is very worried by his new SoS "never wants to learn before a decision" + that he will rush into macho right wing decisions playing to the audience [...]"</p>	183

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02/07/21	<p>"PM meeting - Cases ↑. Hospital admissions up. PM looks downbeat + talks of grim predictions. Saj says "we are going to have to learn to live with it" "and die with it" says PM. Cx pushes very hard for faster opening up + fuller opening up. Getting rid of all restrictions. Repeats his [...] mantra "we either believe in the Vx or we don't". I pointed out we would be facing a lockdown now if it were not for the Vx. PM says what will we do if we make masks voluntary. What will ministers say they will do "sometimes I will, sometimes I won't wear one". "Are we going to encourage people to wear masks? Are we going to continue with this bollocks" he says wants everyone back at work "we can't have the bollocks of consulting with employees + trade unions. They need to all come back to work." "All the malingering work shy people" says how much of CS is back "how would you be able to tell" he says. Saj argues for caution. Basically it is PM + Cx against a more cautious Gove + Saj. PM in a bad mood. Ends by joking "please record that you have overcome my natural caution + bullied me into opening up". The whole meeting was political posturing. CS people worried. CMO + I made risks very clear."</p>	184-185

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
05/07/21	<p>"PM chaired Covid O. PM says that cases still going up but wants a "very considerable package of freedoms". Williamson keen to say bubbles in schools should be stopped today + announced today. Saj comes in + says message is pandemic is far from over + link between cases + hospitalisation is weakened but not broken. PM says "decision to postpone was the right one as it gave us more time to Vx + shows that we have broken the link between cases + hospitalisations"."</p>	188