

[18/05/2020, 08:16:14] Mark Sedwill: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.

[18/05/2020, 08:16:14] Mark Sedwill: Good and v candid conversation with PM including about Dom. To cut a long story short I agreed to stay on for now subject to various conditions about behaviour and systems. I've asked the team to work up a model for Perm Sec No10 on the JJH model which preserves Martin's role and Helen's upgrade in parallel. Once you're all agreed, I'd then like you and Helen to discuss it with Dom together. He needs to understand that divide and rule isn't a runner.

[18/05/2020, 08:29:32] Simon C: Okay. Thanks. First of all, I am glad you have had a good conversation with him. Second, I have many questions about all of this, as you can imagine! Third, I care very much about Helen and Martin, so want to see them do well out of all this. I am happy to work on this today, dispassionately, but I am not willing to agree to do any job back in this version of the centre without guarantees/honest conversations with the PM about behaviours. I will work for you and the PM. I will not work from Dom. I will not support any version of No 10 that undermines any Cabinet Secretary, let alone you. **I&S**

Irrelevant & Sensitive I will always do my utmost to support a PM, but I am v v cautious about walking back into this. I will talk to John/Helen/Martin/Dom about progressing this in a way that accords with your wishes and as per your conversation with the PM, not as it accords with Dom's views (if different from yours/PM's)!

[18/05/2020, 08:59:59] Mark Sedwill: Great. I will leave you, Helen and Martin to work out the model. Reinforcing my conversation with PM about behaviours v helpful. Speak later.

[18/05/2020, 15:40:05] Mark Sedwill: Google translate from Borisonian to Markian: "Ambiguous" = "Conditional".

[18/05/2020, 15:47:45] Simon C: Honestly, Mark, I don't want to go near these people. If as part of all this there are some guarantees about behaviour, I will give it a go for a very short period.

[18/05/2020, 15:52:14] Mark Sedwill: V wise. Focus on Covid to start with. Otherwise you just replicate the problem they say they want to address of being spread too thin. For example I think you should demand that you and Dom are co located with a combined staff so he can't run interference. That will be an interesting test of his intent. I was 60:40 planning to go before last night. It's still 50:50. Same question: behaviour.

[18/05/2020, 22:25:32] Simon C: I hear from everyone that you have made the PM see sense and the only thing that is happening is creation of a COVID job? If so, I am almost more appalled that the PM has done all of this and caused all of this damage, when all he really wanted was a point person for COVID.

[18/05/2020, 22:29:46] Mark Sedwill: Exactly the point I made and hammered the game playing. Covid now - response/recovery. Lead the work idc on a PM's Dept. Fine. If it sticks. I'm not sure he saw sense. He just gave in when I made clear how angry I was at the behaviour.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

[02/07/2020, 19:57:31] Simon C: It is fucking extraordinary! I exploded at Dom over this (as did Lee). I will not work in an environment where Dom is constantly briefing out his plans and screwing up the rest of us in the process

[02/07/2020, 19:57:58] Mark Sedwill: But Dom never talks to the press. He told me!

[02/07/2020, 19:59:33] Simon C: It is just awful. The PM has now (multiple times) outright told Dom to stop talking to the media in my presence. And then this stuff happens. This place is just insane. Zero discipline.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

[02/07/2020, 20:00:39] Simon C: I have asked Slacky to talk to James Forsyth and say that next time he wants to mention me in a column, we expect to be called to offer comment/steer away etc.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

[02/07/2020, 20:02:28] Simon C: At this rate, I will struggle to last six months. These people are so mad. Not poisonous towards me (yet), but they are just madly self-defeating

[02/07/2020, 20:02:29] Mark Sedwill: Ok. I will fix.

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[02/07/2020, 20:03:38] Mark Sedwill: Yup! You're ok so far because you've been around for the good news phase. Wait until there are more Leicesters and then the fur will fly. Watch yourself.

[02/07/2020, 20:04:17] Mark Sedwill: As I pointed out to Eddie, it's hard to ask people to match to the sound of gunfire if they're shot in the back.

[02/07/2020, 20:06:16] Simon C: I've never seen a bunch of people less well-equipped to run a country. PM asked me today about who will replace Shinner when he goes (he'd heard he only has two weeks left). I was quite direct in telling him that lots of the top-drawer people I had asked had refused to come because of the toxic reputation of his operation.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

[02/07/2020, 20:11:23] Mark Sedwill: I told PM to sack Hancock (to save lives and protect the NHS) and replace him with Gove.

[02/07/2020, 20:11:46] Simon C: I think that's a great move

[02/07/2020, 20:13:42] Mark Sedwill: He could "rest" Hancock now (that total bullshit performance over Leicester was chilling and where was Chris) and promise him a new job at the full reshuffle after the summer.

[02/07/2020, 20:16:17] Mark Sedwill: 🍷 Monday?

[02/07/2020, 20:17:55] Simon C: Leicester is a horrifying case. I was genuinely shaken by it. Made me realise how much nonsense we've been fed by Matt, Dido and others. We were told for a fortnight that all was under control (by JBC). And then we suddenly get told it isn't fine and we have a couple of hours to decide to lock-down a whole city. The previous data was junk. The current data we have isn't much better. There is no proper leadership around Dido's operation etc. Really appalling