

UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2 - Rule 9 Request to Professor Jackie Cassell - Reference:

M2/SAGE/01/JC

Please provide the following information:

1. A brief overview of your qualifications, career history, professional expertise and major publications.

I am a medically trained academic, and hold specialist accreditation in Public Health Medicine and Genitourinary Medicine, am trained in epidemiology and health services research. I have led and participated in a range of research projects and programmes on sexual health, infection and infection prevention in care homes, use of health datasets in research, and social care related quality of life. I am engaged in research on infection prevention the domiciliary care setting in the South East of England. I am employed at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School, a joint entity co-hosted by the University of Brighton and University of Sussex, where I am Deputy Dean. I am also Honorary Consultant in Health Protection (Public Health) with UKHSA, (formerly with Public Health England, and before that the Health Protection Agency). This has involved a variable and generally small FTE relating mostly to sexual health surveillance and response. However, since 1st September 2021 I have been seconded 0.6FTE to the UKHSA, initially in the Adult Social Care COVID-19 response cell, which has now transformed into the Vulnerable People and Inclusion Health function. Within UKHSA I provide clinical input on health protection in Adult Social Care. I am also currently a Non-Executive Director at University Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust.

Key publications relevant to my role in COVID-19 response are:

Cassell, Jackie A, Middleton, Jo, Nalabanda, Ananth, Lanza, Stefania, Head, Michael G, Bostock, Jennifer, Hewitt, Kirsty, Jones, Christopher Iain, Darley, Charles, Karir, Simran and Walker, Stephen L (2018) Scabies outbreaks in ten care homes for elderly people: a prospective study of clinical features, epidemiology, and treatment outcomes. The Lancet Infectious Diseases, 18 (8). pp. 894-902.

Kinyanjui, Timothy, Middleton, Jo, Güttel, Stefan, Cassell, Jackie, Ross, Joshua and House, Thomas (2018) Scabies in residential care homes: modelling, inference and interventions for well-connected population sub-units. PLoS Computational Biology, 14 (3). e1006046.

Phipps, Emily, Pietzsch, Maaïke E, Cassell, Jackie A and Humphreys, Clare (2019) The public health importance of scabies in community domiciliary care settings: an exploratory cross-sectional survey of health protection teams in England. Epidemiology and Infection, 147. e239.

Morrison, E J, Middleton, J, Lanza, S, Cowen, J E, Hewitt, K, Walker, S L, Nicholls, M, Rajan-Iyer, J, Fletcher, J and Cassell, J (2019) Do we know how scabies outbreaks in residential and nursing care homes for the elderly should be managed? A systematic review of interventions using a novel approach to assess evidence quality. Epidemiology & Infection, 147 (e250)

Further publications can be seen at <https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p16624-jackie-cassell/publications>

2. A list of the groups (i.e. SAGE and/or any of its sub-groups) in which you have been a participant, and the relevant time periods.

I have been a member of the SAGE Social Care subgroup (SCWG), first attending a meeting on 22nd May 2020 according to my personal records.

3. An overview of your involvement with those groups between January 2020 and

February 2022, including:

a. When and how you came to be a participant;

I was introduced to Prof Ian Hall (Co-Chair) by Prof Thomas House with whom I had published research on infection in care homes (see list above). We had an initial informal 3 way meeting where we discussed the relevance of my research to the care home response, and I was invited to join the standing group which I did according to my records on 22nd May 2020.

b. The number of meetings you attended, and your contributions to those meetings;

I attended the overwhelming majority of meetings from 22nd May 2020 which were initially held weekly until it was stood down, but do not have a record of the number I attended before May 2021. Between May 2021 and April 2022 I attended 17 meetings according to UKHSA Teams meeting records, but as I attended at least one by phone it is possible the number is greater.

c. Your role in providing research, information and advice.

I took part in SCWG wholly in my academic role up to 1st September 2021, and I did not have any time or role relating to adult social care within my UKHSA honorary consultant contract. Although I was active in research on infection in adult social care, this was funded elsewhere and I was not commissioned to undertake any research specifically for the purposes of the SCWG. I provided advice and relevant research publications by myself and others; publications to support this advice; and also early intelligence from research I was undertaking on health protection issues in domiciliary care. I provided advice and resources verbally at meetings, in the Teams chat at meetings, and by reviewing, and where I had relevant expertise I contributed to the drafting and finalising of all SAGE commissions to the group.

From 1st September 2021 as noted above I worked 0.6FTE within UKHSA, and from that point onwards I was been involved actively in drafting all documents and supporting their signoff internally, in addition to providing my expert input as above.

From late 2021, SCWG was also used as a resource for advice on scientific issues important to UKHSA Adult Social Care COVID-19 response, which were not commissioned by SAGE. These were used internally to inform advice and guidance. I also assisted with the preparation and finalisation of these within my UKSHA role, including drafting.

4. A summary of any documents to which you contributed for the purpose of advising

SAGE and/or its related subgroups on the Covid-19 pandemic. Please include links to those documents where possible.

I contributed to a lesser or greater degree to the majority of SCWG publications on the SAGE website, and cannot at this stage summarise my contributions in any detail.

5. A summary of any articles you have written, interviews and/or evidence you have given regarding the work of the above-mentioned groups and/or the UK's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please include links to those documents where possible.

I have not written, been interviewed on or provided evidence in any setting on the work of SAGE SCWG specifically. Up until my secondment to UKHSA September 2021 I undertook a range of media activities mostly with regional BBC radio and television aimed at the general public, and in particular

advocated for better recognition of the unequal impacts pandemic restrictions on more vulnerable people of many kinds. A typical example would be this letter to the Financial Times <https://www.ft.com/content/57ca68fa-281f-4969-8a90-32fca53a24ae> .

Early in the pandemic I wrote a blog which was aimed at informing the general public on various aspects of COVID-19 including some comments on policy. This is at www.jackiecassell.com. I wrote an article about vaccination on <https://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/1430865/coronavirus-latest-scientists-call-end-lockdown-may>. None of these contributions were remunerated, and the blog does not have any paid subscription or other income stream.

I gave one interview to the Today programme in an independent capacity, explaining why people living in care homes are particularly vulnerable to transmission and impacts of COVID-19 and other infections. The interviewer mentioned that I was a member of SCWG, but speaking in a personal capacity.

6. Your views as to whether the work of the above-mentioned groups in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic (or the UK's response more generally) succeeded in its aims.

This may include, but is not limited to, your views on:

- a. The composition of the groups and/or their diversity of expertise;**
- b. The way in which the groups were commissioned to work on the relevant issues;**
- c. The resources and support that were available;**
- d. The advice given and/or recommendations that were made;**
- e. The extent to which the groups worked effectively together;**
- f. The extent to which applicable structures and policies were utilised and/or complied with and their effectiveness.**

I will be happy to respond to more specific questions, but as a member of a single group I am not sure how to respond to these general questions without more guidance on what is required.