## Message

From: Helen MacNamara [helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]

on behalf of Helen MacNamara <helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> [helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]

Sent: 02/03/2020 22:22:53

To: Mark Sweeney [mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]

Subject: Re: Briefing with LOTO

ah. that doesn't wholly surprise me. we had similar issue after grenfell. back in the day we used to run things like flooding jointly so that people picking up policy had a chance of actually developing that over a longer time period than an action log from one day to the next. but I don't think i've seen that happen - NR on no deal being a v significant exception.

btw apart from my mini-rant about the masculine tone i have some VIEWS about the way we are treating "science" like it is the word of God. We don't always go where the science leads us...Chris W is exceptional btw so this is not a pop at him but the answer isn't just what is rational.

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		Helen MacNamara
		Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet
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On Mon, 2 Mar 2020 at 22:11, Mark Sweeney < <u>mark.sweeney@cabinetoffice.gov.uk</u>> wrote: I think this might be a gap. I am taking a meeting to get the pandemic bill into proper shape. There is an issue here in that CCS tend to see COBR as a cabinet committee which it isn't in policy terms. Will get into it tmw.

On Mon, 2 Mar 2020 at 21:42, Helen MacNamara < helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk > wrote: Who in your team is supporting CCS on the policy (not emergency) response to the virus?

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	Helen MacNamara
	Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet
10.00	E: Helen.MacNamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk   T   Irrelevant & Sensitive
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Helen MacNamara < helen.macnamara@cabinetoffice.gov.uk >

Date: Mon, 2 Mar 2020 at 21:41 Subject: Briefing with LOTO

To: Imran Shafi < IShafi@no10.gov.uk>

Cc: Katharine Hammond <a href="mailto:katharine.hammond@cabinetoffice.gov.uk">katharine.hammond@cabinetoffice.gov.uk</a>, Dominic Cummings

<DCummings@no10.gov.uk>, Stuart Glassborow <SGlassborow@no10.gov.uk>,

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## Imran

DHSC Perm Sec, Chris Whitty and Patrick Vallence briefed the Opposition as requested by the PM. LOTO found it very helpful and passed on his thanks and appreciation for the work that was going on. The Opposition were talked through the science and promised that they would see the document in advance of publication tomorrow.

Couple of things I promised the Perm Sec I would pass on:

- both the Shadow Health Spox and LOTO wanted to pass back to Ministers their concern that some people would not be able to stop working even if they needed to self-isolate because they had no guaranteed income and that this was a risk that should be addressed
- they raised the issue of whether the public health system was well enough funded and supported. Chris Whitty was very good on explaining how the system in the UK benchmarked very highly compared to the rest of the world.

It was a good reminder that they really don't have access to information beyond what's in the media and we have a much better chance of minimising public debate and causing unnecessary anxiety and speculation if they have the chance to quiz the experts and understand the science and the rationale behind certain decisions. It might be helpful (if we can afford the time) to offer a similar update next week. And/or may want to do a similar exercise before other announcements. The confidentiality of the information shared was emphasised.

Let me know if anything else would be useful

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