

Response to:

UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Module 2 - Rule 9 Request to Professor James Wood

- Reference: M2/SAGE/01/JW

- 1) I am a veterinary epidemiologist. I have worked at the University of Cambridge since 2005 on infectious and zoonotic diseases. My ~300 publications can be found here:
<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=2S7qMccAAAAJ&hl=en>
- 2) I contributed to one SAGE paper and came to one SAGE meeting, on 8th April 2021. The jointly prepared paper on the risks of rats becoming infected with the virus and then transmitting it back to humans can be found here
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jbc-and-defra-a-qualitative-risk-assessment-to-estimate-the-likelihood-of-sars-cov-2-infection-of-rodents-from-contact-with-the-environment-and-onwar>
- 3) I was involved in the preparation of this work in a series of meetings in the weeks before 8th April 2021.
 - a. I was invited as this is the broad area that I work in and I was a member of Defra's Science Advisory Council at the time.
 - b. I did not actively contribute to the SAGE meeting
 - c. I co-authored the paper referred to above.
- 4) The paper is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jbc-and-defra-a-qualitative-risk-assessment-to-estimate-the-likelihood-of-sars-cov-2-infection-of-rodents-from-contact-with-the-environment-and-onwar>
- 5) I have not actively commented on nor been interviewed about this work or the role of SAGE in the pandemic
- 6) I do not have a view on these broader questions.
- 7) I think that the scientific advice that was available to decision makers in England and the UK was world class. The content and meetings of SAGE and its sub-groups were very clear (once minutes and membership started to be published). It is not clear to me how this was used at different times throughout the pandemic to inform or shape government policy. 8) I do not hold any further relevant documentation.

Professor James Wood FRCVS OBE

Personal Data

