

Message

**From:** [NR] [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3897A6F85DA64C12A64BD882ED83BCA0 [NR]]

**Sent:** 29/01/2020 09:42:00

**To:** Reed, Emma [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=173f921982a14676bd2ddede2616bc10-EReed2]; Dodds, Kevin [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=de217b42bf93443b9ace02930082ad6c-KDodds]; Sharon Peacock [Sharon.Peacock@phe.gov.uk]; Willett, Keith [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a749ac403aa34739847bd1c7efd140a4-Willett, K]; Nick Phin [Nick.Phin@phe.gov.uk]; Whitty, Chris [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=0b3ee62e0ca04e978730b14f9b416a1e-Whitty, Chr]; Reed, Emma [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=173f921982a14676bd2ddede2616bc10-EReed2]; Sharon.Peacock@phe.gov.uk; Yvonne Doyle [Yvonne.Doyle@phe.gov.uk]; Paul Cosford [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b60634361c80448ab15923e2a9d3e2e5-Paul Cosfor]; [NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=27ee1e7a4b104a38b77174c2bd0da318 [NR]]; Thomas, Kate [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cc707bbaa8be4a8bb01d4fcd0ff0b7-KThomas]; [NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8b57681670d4bebb593ac7909aebca7 [NR]]; Van Tam, Jonathan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d29c846fc8fa4678b419c6f0dc3836f3-JVanTam]; Swinson, Clara [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c57f68b7aca4c7696d33cdcb66b1d40-CSwinson]; Stephen Groves [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ce814b8577b14e2dafc8a9dfa590ab85-Stephen Gro]; Permanent Secretary [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c95fac41d7c24f8ba5faa2072856bcdcf-Permanent S]; Price, Natasha [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2ff9661092c5453aa67b231e819b9653-NPrice4]

**CC:** Senior Copylist [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=45360eff9fa2467d8fead1fe51e67238-NEWSeniorCo]; WN-CoVspoc [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=dd11ee7c30cf47c29e3766cc78e99f5f-WN-CoVspoc]; [NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=27ee1e7a4b104a38b77174c2bd0da318 [NR]]; [NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b8b57681670d4bebb593ac7909aebca7 [NR]]; [NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=9927e90f50a44bb58ea40461cfe7f413 [NR]]

**Subject:** Coronavirus meeting readout 29/01

All,

Please see the below for a readout from yesterday's meeting with SofS, PS(P) and PS(I) on Coronavirus. Actions are in red. Please forward on to those who I will have missed from the cc list (and let me know who needs to be added going forward), but v grateful if the note can be treated sensitively.

**Coronavirus meeting:** 27/01/2020

- Emma Reed provided an overview of the latest Sitrep data. SofS questioned the stats on Thailand and whether this was particularly worrisome. Sharon Peacock commented that Thailand have an extensive laboratory service and are well equipped.
- CMO commented that today's data appears slightly less reassuring than yesterdays (27/01) but the positive is that there has been no sustained transmission outside of China. CMO commented that we cannot yet fully understand whether the measures imposed by China have had any significant impact in delaying transmission. Officials are estimating that there will be a large proportion of infected persons in China that we are not currently aware of. If the course of transmission continues to spread outside of China, we will be looking at flu pandemic rates.
- CMO commented that the reasonable worst case scenario would be similar to a medium flu pandemic (with the added challenge of no vaccine).
- SofS asked what this means for the Government's position on travel to China. CMO commented that the economic impact of stopping travel would be significant and whilst this could slow the spread of the virus, it would not affect it's inevitably.
- SofS asked about China stopping travel out of the country, CMO commented that this proposal might already be in traction. SofS asked for intel from FCO on the decision to stop travel. FCO SofS had flagged to DHSC SofS that he would be minded to advise against all travel to China.
  - **ACTION:** Policy to raise with FCO officials and with G7 counterparts call (and via other routes) and to flag cross-gov that DHSC SofS is seriously concerned and urging to move to all but essential travel to china.
- CMO flagged that WHO may call a PHEIC tomorrow (29/01). CMO advised that it would be beneficial for SofS to get in touch with Tedros Adhanom, outlining his concern, requesting information on plans and to offer UK support (*SofS has actioned – call scheduled for 29/01*)
  - **ACTION:** Policy to provide some lines to take ahead of the call by **13.00**
- CMO commented that there is now credible evidence of asymptomatic transmission within Germany (resulting from the timings of the transmission). PHE reiterated that there is no test for asymptomatic patients and that this would not be possible without invasive tests (which could encourage spread).
- On contract tracing, Sharon Peacock outlined that ten percent of passengers from Wuhan have been contacted (via email).
  - **ACTION:** SofS asked that persons on the 22nd January flight should be included in data calculations going forward and that comms should work up a plan on this.
- On the confirmed case protocol, SofS commented that he was concerned about the potential for a leak from Stage 1 onwards. Stage 1 - 6 would take place within a matter of hours and the plan was being disseminated to all clinical levels. SofS commented that a leak should not derail the plan.
- SofS agreed strongly that DHSC should communicate the plan to the system and the media in advance so that we outline how we will respond to a case and that we will commit to publishing case information as soon as reasonably possible.
  - **ACTION:** comms to finalise this plan (including time commitment with media) and share with ministers
- There was a discussion about the potential for rumours and the subsequent mitigating processes needed for stage 4, for contacting family and friends. Jaimie Njoku-Goodwin commented on the value of IPSO to protect the patient.
- CMO agreed to work out a rota for feeding the Science Media Forum robust information as part of the wider communications strategy.
- SofS commented that should we confirm a case he will need to make a statement to parliament when it next sits, or will call a COBR and clip on the steps.
- Keith Willett commented that we must be careful to not set a precedent for the how we manage the first patient. SofS agreed that the first case and transmission in the UK should be treated differently and must be held in hospital (in isolation, not necessarily in a special secure unit) but that this procedure should not be applied to all.
- Emma Reed outlined three options to meet the evacuated persons of the plane from China. 1. Self-isolation in their home (SofS ruled this option out) 2. UK provided containment (in halls, barracks, hotel etc ) which would be offered on a voluntary basis 3. Same option as 2 but made involuntary
- For involuntary isolation, lawyers advised that an Order from the local magistrate would be needed. SofS wanted further advice on this point and asked that we work up both options 2 and 3 to the best that we can but ensure that the persons are as comfortable as possible. SofS agreed that people should sign a "contract" agreeing to isolation before boarding the plane (there was discussion of the potential use of financial penalties rather than court orders)



- **ACTION:** team to provide advice (including legal considerations) on options 2 and 3 in detail within the next 24 hours.
- SofS asked that tomorrow we discuss the reasonable worst case scenario tomorrow internally, before deciding whether this needs raising cross Gov.
- **ACTION:** for this to be added on to the agenda for tomorrows meeting.

After the meeting, SofS commented that it would be useful for PS(P) to meet the Wuhan returners of the plane

- **ACTION:** comms to liaise with **NR** from PS(P)'s office on the feasibility on this

Discussions around Coronavirus have been ongoing and SofS has also made the following decisions separately to the meeting.

- SofS is content (in principle) to offer assisted departure assistance to other countries by offering seats on the flight so long as isolation arrangements are respected.
- SofS agreed with the advice that we should look to return people to an military airfield rather than a commercial airport such as Heathrow (in order to safely isolate individuals) **I'll continue to chase MOD PO to ensure that this advice is escalated through their clearance procedures, SpAD's are doing the same.**
- SofS has spoken to the Foreign Sec who has requested that any UK flight is equipped with appropriate PPE – officials confirmed this would be the case.
- SofS agreed that we should invite HMT to COBR given potential for financial impact.

Let me know if anyone has any questions on this. Happy to discuss.

Many thanks,

**NR**



**NR**

Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)

E: **NR** [@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:nr@dhsc.gov.uk) T: **I&S** M: **I&S**

39 Victoria St, Westminster, SW1H 0EU

[Follow us on Twitter @DHSCgovuk](https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk)

*DHSC recipients please note: this email will not be saved by Private Office. If you need it for audit purposes, please keep a copy for your records*

**For all submissions, please factor in Junior Minister clearance. SofS Office box times are 3pm Monday-Wednesday and 12pm Thursday.**

This e-mail and any attachments is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail. Any views expressed in this message are not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care. Please note: Incoming and outgoing email messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications.

This e-mail and any attachments is intended only for the attention of the addressee(s). Its unauthorised use, disclosure, storage or copying is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient, please destroy all copies and inform the sender by return e-mail. Any views expressed in this message are not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care. Please note: Incoming and outgoing email messages are routinely monitored for compliance with our policy on the use of electronic communications.