

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
07.05.20	"Ministers try to make science give the answers rather than them making decisions."	29

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.06.20	<p>"Apparently PM is finding this all very difficult - looked awful in meeting with CMO and Simon Case etc [...] Simon says he is quite frail on all this. Had a shouty meeting with Cx who wants everything open but was challenged by PM [...] Cx unable to respond. Cx quite good at cherry picking when other countries are opening up and making it sound like they have all gone further than us. [...] Helen Whatley (junior minister) apparently said on Sky this morning "you can't blame the scientists for care homes" said "I can" and then promptly tried to back track. I would like to see her try! We warned in Feb."</p>	59-60

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
19.06.20	"Morning PM meeting [...] wants everything normal by September and only deal with things locally and regionally. He is now completely bullish about opening everything - as CW said it is so inconsistent. It is like 'bipolar decision-making'."	68

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
19.06.20	"No 10 pushing hard on releasing measures - Including clubs and bars. They are pushing very hard and want the science altered. We need to hold on to our hats. There will likely be a second peak."	69

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
23.06.20	"Schools and winter will add more problems - I told them to watch out for a natural spike given the connectivity and to expect more outbreaks. After an OK SAGE where they seemed rather Dovish in relation to the changes (all now want to get things moving) Slater called. Interestingly he said DfE says didn't want to ask SAGE about schools because the minutes would be published - consequence of transparency!"	72

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
02.07.20	"In economics meeting earlier in the day they didn't realise CMO was there and Cx said, 'It is all about handling the scientists, not handling the virus.' They then got flustered when CMO chipped in later and they realised he had been there all along. PM blustered and waffled for 5 mins to cover his embarrassment."	80

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.07.20	"Dido pushed to get financial support for people to get tested in low socioeconomic groups. Rishi reacted strongly against that and said basically... "just stop the social interactions" [...] For Rishi – it is all about personal responsibility and get the state out."	100

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
09.09.20	"Dashboard - PM heard from Williamson that Eton was testing all pupils before they came back "Pathetic". "Head should be kicked in" Absolute outrage. Numbers going up."	148

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
16.09.20	"Complete chaos over schools and what they should do. No one had any answers. The comms are shambolic. Dido repeated that there will be 500k/800k? by end of October."	159

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
18.09.20	"Cummings spoke persuasively on urgent and real action. Why wait and then do it? Do it now and get on top of it. Lee says, 'C&P have been saying all this for months. But what is the strategy for next 6 months.' The whole meeting was about managing Rishi. Then Case whatsapp's late to say PM doesn't want to do anything imminently! Apparently also called CMO to say 'vaccine nearly here' !!"	167

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.09.20	<p>"PM obsessed with testing again. Wants to know why not ramped up and why is turnaround so slow? PM asks, 'Why is the orange line in the graph so wonky?' Dido explains that things happen that mean their performance is not linear [...] PM says 'We must have known this wasn't working - we have been pretending it has been whereas secretly we know it hasn't been.' Hancock lets out a big sigh. Hancock says other countries are asking him 'How have you managed to do this.'"</p>	185-186

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
12.10.20	"PM trying to explain things in HoC. How to explain "we recommend Tier 3 but don't believe it will work"!"	219

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
17.10.20	"PM -still pushing on aren't all the deaths in really old people"	228

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
10.12.20	"PM testing meeting... London > is largely in school-aged children... schools "Why can't we just compel children to be tested" "We make them take French tests, why can't we make them take covid tests"	301-302

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
11.12.20	"DFE still very resistant to letting schools stop early (why??! It makes total sense to do it)"	303

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
14.12.20	<p>"Covid O Hancock comes in with new variant story. ..Stronger messaging at Christmas. Michael Gove was the only one to support Tier 3 last time. What will he do this time? London now 40% of wave 1 peak hospitalisations. PM starts with "everyone wants to go to Tier 3 - if you disagree go now." Sharma "I am not saying that we shouldn't put London in Tier 3 but..." then goes on to say that beds are free & this is crying wolf (attributed it to me but it was Steve Powis/Amanda Pritchard). Chief whip 'No one believes all this.' Jenrick says general agreement that London should go into Tier 3, including with Mayor. PM peddling the narrative that somehow the graphs were 'wrong' last time & collapsed under press scrutiny [...] PM now worrying about Christmas (too late!) Agreed that reframing advice about Christmas needs to take place. Gove says measures from last year show we have been 'too lenient & too late' & we cannot make the same mistakes yet again. This lot are generally a shambles - they need much clearer & simpler comms. Dowden now coming out a bit more in favour of stricter measures."</p>	306-307

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
16.12.20	"PM keeps wanting to < the tiers in some areas despite the evidence of what will happen 'we need to give people hope' he says. Will he ever learn?... PM 'we are going to discourage anyone from having fun over Christmas. That's the plan, is it"	311

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
16.12.20	"Covid O - hospital admissions are now close to 1st peak. Bizarrely they have proposals to put some areas into Tier 1. PM wants to de-escalate more. Chief Whip wants to de-escalate the Chairman of the 1922's Constituency & says 'depends on whether you want to follow the politics or the epidemiology' - astonishing!! Many of them seeming quite bullish about keeping restrictions on."	312

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
28.12.20	<p>"PM very keen to get all schools back....Covid O...Williamson says 'one of the biggest mistakes we made during this pandemic was closing schools - as a panic.' Argues that we are about to make the same mistake again. [...] Williamson says 'I think we need to be brave PM.' He plays a 'just because this is London doesn't mean we should do something different.' Argues that testing will be the answer. I told PM earlier that I thought schools (secondary) should stay closed until end Jan. Plan is to fill up schools part by part by only allowing children in who test -ve. Hancock argues that Tier 4 with schools open does not work against the variant in full flow, cites examples from Kent. They are really struggling with the question of how long the school closures need to be (a few days to get testing set up or a couple of months to protect people)...Gove asks whether we really have room to keep schools open if we are to avoid NHS fully overwhelmed...PM struggling with the question of how long the closure would need to be for."</p>	13-14

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
29.12.20	<p>"Covid O Schools (with a smaller group of ministers). PM says we are less worried about university especially the CX [...]</p> <p>PM says 'I have a dream where every school becomes a mini Slovakia with testing with totalitarian efficiency.' Gavin Williamson says he has a very high level of confidence that he can do it. [...] Williamson massively overplays the testing card. Says teachers will do the testing with the help of the army. [...] PM is completely seduced by the testing plans proposed. Dido admits we don't even have the number of tests required to do this. We will be taking tests away from NHS. PM saying the whole thing will suppress the R. This is an incredibly difficult decision... Gove says 'CMO and CSA very balanced & in this meeting they have given a clear warning we should heed that warning.' PM concludes meeting says 1st schools must go back on 4th with testing. He also supports plans for getting 2^o schools back. They have been warned."</p>	16-17

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
04.01.21	<p>"8am meeting with subgroup chairs. Lots of gloom about situation. Schools are a mess.</p> <p>Covid PM. New restrictions have been cobbled together looks like back to March. PM says 'It is going to knock my India trip on the head.' Gove argues for doing more, not less. they have the knives out for Williamson "DfE has been proved comprehensively wrong in every judgement over the past week". Even Simon Case now arguing for closing 1 ° schools (what a difference a week makes!)"</p>	21

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
25.01.21	<p>"Clear that the Cx has got to him. He has been gung ho on opening up all day. PM seemed surprised that people could come to UK from SA by routes other than direct flights. All highly reminiscent of the discussion last March & we reiterated the basic principles then sudden enthusiasm for tagging. Concludes he wants a policy that looks ok because he doesn't really think we can stop entry of virus & he doesn't want to be left with no way out of a policy 'whether the policy makes any sense at all I don't care any more.' Basically they made up policy on the hoof. He concluded 'Grade A - it is ineffective, inoperable and incoherent.' Let's go with that."</p>	51

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
28.04.21	"Pre-meet on Step 4 - expectations the Cx will push for complete opening up on June 21st. We discussed that the economic analysis is presented as 'fact' whereas it has largely been wrong. Issue of sick pay for self-isolation was stressed again (but apparently HMT very opposed)."	127

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
08.12.21	<p>“Covid O- Coffey, Zahawi, Kwarteng, Gove, someone for OCHS (Nigel?), Cx, PM, Javid, Shapps pre-chat amongst themselves whilst reading the Plan B paper [...] they have just over exaggerated everything, except the 1 st time when they did nothing, says Coffey. Harper says “This Is just like a cold now. How infectious is a cold. We don't stop the economy for a cold”. Very cross about slow roll out of boosters + how many people aren't Vx. They are also moaning about projections “I have always been very cautious about projections” says CMO [...].</p> <p>Then PM arrives - starts to talk about need to have societal discussion (echoes of [...]). People moan about Vx + suggest let it rip. Kwarteng Says “must stop the pingdemic” without thinking of the logic that it simply reflects high infection numbers! Economic arguments are thrown in about economic collapse with no data or evidence - esp by Cx [...] I stressed that we know this has been ↑ growth but we do not know it has ↑ transmissibility. It could be immune escape. Cx clearly doesn't want to act or buy Rx “Ok but then don't ask me for money for rail, school etc etc. If I spend on this I can't spend on other things.” Argues that this must be modelable with such 1° transmission surely it is all going to spread anyway + we should just let it (logical but nasty).</p> <p>Also - we know about growth but not about transmissibility. Lots of (fair) push on exit plan- we suggest data on Vx, severity, spread/growth + hospitalisations. Jeremy H + SoS health start talking about 1 M cases by 2017 [...]. They latch on to it. They also latch on to clutch at all straws “it's less severe” “SA isn't UK” “no one has been ill in SA”. Gove fires a passionate rocket saying Plan B isn't enough. It is a well argued intervention but he concludes with “It is pointless, no one is listening”. Feels like March 2020 all over again.”</p>	282-285

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
17.12.21	<p>"Coffey says 'If this is like a cold, why do people need to isolate!' [...] Gove again comes across as the voice of reason + understands how bad this is [...] PM meeting says 'I am particularly keen to get some voices of reason' then says 'well all are reasonable but we need some counter views + some moral philosophy in how we are going to handle this + live with Covid - [...] PM says 'I am weary of fighting this fight. Frost says 'you know my general view in this' 'And we should publish it all' [...] + then questions NPIs. [...] says he thinks mo [crossed out] NPIs do not work. PM says, 'I don't know how I can survive a press conference saying I wouldn't do anything with this level of hospitalisations + death.' We give the evidence carefully + calmly. PM concludes by saying I think we should bolster Plan B to [...] for a bit until the boosters are due. 'I need different [...] pairs of eyes on it'. 'I want a proper discussion in cabinet. I can't just tell them again in a call as a fait accompli' [...] They are appropriately nervous about the scale of the decision."</p>	301

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23.12.21	"Ian Diamond called + ONS numbers ↑↑ Apparently Steve Barclay (CDL) suggesting yesterday that I am over-egging it. He also says 'let it rip' + get it over + done with."	315

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
10.01.22	"Vx uptake is going up + down quickly depending on HMG messaging. Apparently HMT totally against continued spend on Vx (unbelievable!!!)."	334-335

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12.01.22	"CMO now gravely warning of a plateau having been rather dogmatic about a quick up + down."	338

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
19.01.22	"Public health policy dog being wagged by right wing political necessities.....CMO+ I give a warning to stay cautious. SoS DHSC reinforces that. Coffey objects to even the mild caution about people still wearing masks."	341

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14.02.22	"CMO argues strongly for retaining clear policy of public health warning on keeping self isolation etc. They <u>all</u> (i.e. the politicians) want to stop payments for self-isolation. HMT wants to stop self isolation in guidance + law on Feb 24th. PM wants to get rid of testing. HMT want "a Vx led strategy" with little use of antivirals + much less testing."	349

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
16.02.22	"BBB. Ian D says how wrong economic modelling has been throughout the pandemic. Report today shows that WFH has had little or any impact on productivity."	350

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
17.02.22	"The living with Covid plans are worrying us. Stop everything + no plan on how to re start if needed."	350

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.02.22	"A lot of work to get the whole living with covid thing in the right place. HMT want to cull everything [...] CDL reports that PM has instructed him to go with the minimum possible as we live with covid. CMO + I laid out the situation + the risks. Cx - says Ok with principles but wants to know how this will be paid for."	351

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
20.02.22	'Papers full of speculation and commentary on 'living with covid' [...] "The paper itself still lacks specifics on a robust + rapid response. CMO + I have given comments."	352

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
21.02.22	"Chaos over the plans. Funding not agreed. SoS DH + HMT at odds [...]. It is really all chaotic. Went through everything line by line. We press 3 points - Detect, respond + Protect (the vulnerable!) but remind him we can't comment on costs [...]. "Have we just agreed to give SoS even more than he asked for!! - No but we did protect the ONS survey." Coffey [...] - saying go into work if you are unwell. Doesn't want people to self-isolate even if unwell."	352-353

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
28/04/20	"Morning PM meeting - he is very worried that UK will look worst in Europe. Lots of pressure to change reporting to deaths/million. MH very defensive of PPE & TTT. Care homes - at least being taken seriously. Ros Roughton (civil servant) has done a good job MH said "should we nationalise the social care sector"."	23

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17.06.20	<p>"PM meeting - all every excited by "speeding up". "That will cheer Rishi up". [...]. Deighton said "we are still a bit tight on gloves and masks and that's a bit hand to mouth". Don't think he meant to make a joke. I mentioned backward contact tracing again. PM "are we now hysterical about the nosocomial problem", Simon Stevens "yes PM we are calm, collected and focussed on it as you say."</p>	66

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19.06.20	<p>"Morning PM meeting [...]. We need "a full throttle approach". Wants everything normal by September and only deal with things locally and regionally. He is now completely bullish about opening everything - as CW said it is so inconsistent. It is like "bipolar decision making" [...] Everyone now obsessed with children losing out. [...]. Mark W said "much easier to be the umpire than the player". Gove said "challenge people to back the Gavster" meaning Gavin Williamson ... so hip.</p> <p>The narrative is becoming [...] Disease in retreat. We have tools to tackle it. Children are a low risk. etc etc get on with it."</p>	68

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
22.06.20	<p>"[...]. SACN and PHE have done a much better review of Vit D that will be published this week [...]. PM - "what is wrong with this country, why won't they go back to school". "Why can't we make it compulsory to go to school". "We can't have this national caterwauling and then parents refusing to send kids back to school". "People need their spines stiffened". When he is taken through data he is very slow. It is like a remedial student and he needs to keep going over it (today it was deaths in care homes vs domiciliary). Dido talked about the facts on cluster identification, and backward contact tracing. "Have you got a top team of cluster busters."</p>	70

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
13.07.20	"PM meeting. Schools not going back enough. "They are just skiving and bludging". Masks. Are we going to have to ask bank robbers to start wearing masks". The ridiculous flip flopping is getting worse (maybe as he recovers?)."	88

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.06.20	<p>"I texted Chris "you can see where this is going". Answer "Yes". PM can't resist his private voice "R". MH credited CW with the "3 epidemics". Whereas in fact that was me and some time ago. Cx convinced that changes aren't making any quick changes to behaviours. CMO said "We think that people who don't have symptoms are not as infectious" - where is that from! PM meetings - worried about diverging SAGE because of the blame that will be attached to him if it goes wrong. "It's a nightmare situation" - but "I have concluded that I can't go too far against the science". But "this is my decision and I need to cop the flack". Now blaming the BLM and the "Cummings Riots" on people not being able to see their relatives. PM "This is not pure political arse covering". "I am normally gung ho and take [...] but I am nervous". He is still coughing. This whole meeting is a negotiation where he wants to get a scientific approval for what he wants to do and he needs to manage his Cx."</p>	58-59

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09.06.20	<p>"Times has piece about Andrew Parker saying that [I&S] was ready in Feb because he listened to me and CW (he did) [...]. Apparently PM is finding this all very difficult. - looked awful in meeting with CMO and Simon Case etc with me on phone "A man finding leadership difficult". Simon says he is quite frail on all this. Had a shouty meeting with Cx who wants everything open but was challenged by PM on "tell me what difference the 8 days until July 4th would make for hospitality sector". Cx unable to respond. Cx quite good at cherry picking when other countries are opening up and making it sound like they have all gone further than us."</p>	59

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.07.20	<p>"[...] Hancock came in and said delay the August 1st additional measures opening up. But the PM says he wants to stick with August 1st measures. Rishi getting very excited about it all and suggesting everyone gets tested at work. "It's perfectly obvious to me this could get out of control again" PM. Dido was very robust.</p> <p>"This is why you had these incredible sights of people being put in filing cabinets in China" PM. For Rishi - it is all about personal responsibility and get the state out. PM "We will have a complete re-run of March". Lots of talk about needing "to take decisive action against the second wave."</p>	100

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03.08.20	<p>"PM meeting - shown 3 lines in a graph, one going up, one stable and one just trickling up. "Which one is stable?" - he clearly doesn't read graphs well. Hancock "we have had a great [...] in the new tests that have come through" - but what are they!! [...]. Cx wants everyone back to normal - eating at restaurants etc. PM wants an update on "Operation Spitfire" or "Operation great expections". Crazy discussion at the end when none of them could remember what the rules were and who could meet who and where and when. CMO privately - if numbers go up in Manchester again then we may come out of delusion-land."</p>	108

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
12.08.20	<p>"[...] PM very agitated about getting new higher throughput tests going. Freaked out because apparently Cx told him this morning that there is no money for an SR. [...].</p> <p>[...] Then 2 hrs with PM, DC, CMO, Case, Mirza and a couple of others in next 8/12. Imran set us up well with some facts and figures and built from the what we know, what we don't know paper. Then did 4 big areas - Behaviours, tracing the virus, outbreak management and is the NHS ready. We voted - red, amber, yellow. 1st 2 got lots of reds and ambers. Instincts of this crew is to go for more enforcement and punitive measures. We suggested that more carrot and incentives required to make people take a test, self-isolate etc but they always want to go for stick not carrot."</p>	117

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08.09.20	<p>"Things are hotting up. [...].</p> <p>[...]. Gove "can we run this hotter" - then said he was simply playing Devil's advocate and was doing it for good governance and evidence-based decision making. Cx wanted to carry on with pilots, didn't want any more obligations on business "my view is balance of risks has changed, we should open things". I made the point about having to give incentives for self isolation - PM agreed and said he would take it up with Cx afterwards Chris and I were aligned and presented what needs to be done. I left the call. Apparently it descended into chaos and CMO not clear where it will land."</p>	146-147

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18.09.20	"[...]. Case arguing for waiting for higher consequences "As people will". Cummings spoke persuasively on urgent and real action. Why wait and then do it? Do it now and get on top of it. Lee says "C&P have been saying all this for months. But what is the strategy for next 6 months". The whole meeting was about managing Rishi. Then Case WhatsApps late to say PM doesn't want to do anything currently! Apparently also called CMO to say "vaccine nearly here"."	167

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07.10.20	<p>"7pm. Urgent meeting on mass testing with Cummings called. JB saying lateral flows all good to go and that we should "kill the request for contacts of positives to self isolate"!! Long discussion and agreed that Universities should mass test students with LAMP, and that lateral flows for schools and other institutions.</p> <p>Cummings wants to use that to open pubs etc - clear input from Cx. We were all a bit. Cummings talking about "optimising for dying vs optimising for economy" - Cx clearly got to him."</p>	208-209

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
08.10.20	<p>"Very bad meeting in no 10. [...] Spelled out (arrow facing up) numbers 100k, 40k / day. Hospitals filling up. ICU (arrow facing up) and deaths > 100 / day in 2 weeks time. Simon Stevens said no of people in hospital has gone from 500 → 3000 over September. PM talks of Medieval measures than ones being suggested. "Perhaps we should look at another approach and apply different values". "Surely this just sweeps through in waves like other natural phenomena and there is nothing we can do". As Simon Ridley said final slide, PM said "whiskey and a revolver". He was all over the place. Cx using increasingly specific and spurious arguments against closing hospitality. Both of them clutching at straws."</p>	210

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
16.10.20	<p>"[...] PM now obsessed with average age of death being 82 "longer than average life expectancy", "Get Covid live longer". Prep for press conference [...]. PM says Rishi is going bonkers and needs a lot of hand holding and Matt Hancock is cocking up. Case says "the steady hand of the PM on the tiller PM". Steve [...] says travel to work is up to 65%. PM "that's good" and then shrieks in mock embarrassment and says oh no, it's not is it. Shows what he really thinks. Says at one point "I have no optimism left I have had it all sucked out of me" - half joking. Press conference OK but I suspect we will get flak."</p>	225-226

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.10.20	<p>"[...] Ridley meeting - positioned PM meeting as "a chance to step back/ but avoid making a whole load of decisions that then get undone by Cx". I asked what PM thinks objectives are "what he wants to achieve is a series of mutually incompatible options". He "owns the reality for a day and then is buffeted by a discussion with Cx". PM meeting - begins with argue for letting it all rip. Saying yes there will be casualties but so be it. "they have had a good innings". -not persuaded by Edmunds, Ferguson, Farrar. PM says "the population just has to behave doesn't it! Heat maps "I have the necrotising maps" so depressing."</p>	238

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
21.12.20	"[...] Schools PM say "SoS out there pounding the teaching unions who are saying they don't want to teach anyone anything anywhere - which is why they came into teaching of course". They are going to have to do something in schools despite their resistance."	6

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
04.01.21	<p>"8am meeting with subgroup chairs. Lots of gloom about situation. Schools are a mess [...].</p> <p>[...] Good news in an email from JVT - Tocilizumab. (IL-6) works! 25% ↓ in ICU mortality. Dashboard PM. Huge numbers >75k on 29th Dec. & 17% +ve. In London 26% of tests +ve. NHS occupancy ↑ 25% in a week something needs to happen. Covid PM. New restrictions have been cobbled together looks like back to March. PM says "It is going to knock my India trip on the head". Gove argues for doing more not less. they have the knives out for Williamson "DfE has been proved comprehensively wrong in every judgement over the past week". Even Simon Case now arguing for closing 1 ° schools (what a difference a week makes!)."</p>	21

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
25.01.21	"Clear that the Cx has got to him. He has been gung ho about opening up all day."	51

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
29.01.21	<p>"Dashboard. Differences between Pillar 2 & ONS/REACT noted. Probably due to (i) testing behaviour & (ii) LFTs being used more by Pillar 2 & of course they show (arrow pointing down) positivity. PM excited about having seen genomic lab yesterday at some point he says "God this is a stubborn disease". Deaths just turning the corner. Whatever scientists he met yesterday said the new vaccine may not be the cause of the (arrow pointing up). (helpful! NOT!). [...].</p> <p>Deaths higher than other countries PM shouts "we are too fat". [...] PM - opening up/ Vx. Almost entirely for show with PM taking a "open it all up" approach for the benefit of Cx. But we managed to push. Data dependant (Gove helpful) & measure measure measure."</p>	57

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
16.02.21	<p>"[...] PM meeting on Covid [...]. Then Bowler says thank you for your comments yesterday they were really helpful. PM says "they weren't meant to be" ... I thought it was an awful meeting - & when Hancock texted me saying how good it was I knew it was a disaster. PM keeps saying "the whole thing has been appalling", Says he is indifferent to what happens & says "I know I sound like a broken man" - then he perks up. Lots of discussion about how noisy with press opening up will be. He says public wanted slower, press wanted faster last time the public were right. Says he feels like he is guilty "Nam flashbacks". Did we make a decision at the meeting? Not clear. Cx clearly still pushing hard for early opening of retail & other sectors."</p>	71-72

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.12.21	<p>"Virus evolution meeting. Clear agreement we need to get UK Hub set up. Evolution will continue & one day will evade immunity. Biggest pressure now is transmission advantage. PM meeting - he is coming out of Cabinet room sees us & says "OMG what now, what are you here for? This never ends well. Is it a meeting with me". We have a meeting on roadmap. Cx is pushy now not to allow any outdoor activity if he can't have retail. We go back and forth a bit. PM asks when he can go to Chequers again "not until the May step" - he groans when told. We suggest he has a Pavlovian response to seeing us now - one of gloom & despondency."</p>	73

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
14.05.21	"[...] PM looks ragged & dejected. Cx supports not delaying step 3 & says more deaths OK & that "from business perspective confidence is better if we go ahead". Hancock agrees & says just surge test & surge Vx - send in General Messenger (really! the army into Bolton as the solution?). Simon Case & others say tiering didn't work."	140

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
02.07.21	"PM meeting Cases (arrow pointing up). hospital admissions up. PM looks downbeat + talks of grim predictions. Saj says 'we are going to have to learn to live with it' 'and die with it' says PM. Cx pushes very hard for faster opening up+ fuller opening up. Getting rid of all restrictions."	184

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
18.12.21	<p>"[...] Ridley lays it out well + says shutting indoor hospitality + large events. Cx argues that these measures will cause a bigger [...] than [...] Os, 80s + 90s. Henry Cook reports Netherlands going into a complete lockdown, Rishi says "I don't think that the evidence is completely enough + there is no urgency". "I would err on the side of waiting". Says "I think the model shows that herd immunity is the way through this"."</p>	304

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
19.12.21	<p>"The Govt is in chaos because the PM has lost authority. He has called CMO suggesting we return to "shielding" + forgo other measures (deja vu 2020) even though we know this doesn't work. [...]. 6:30pm call with Gove + Simon Clarke. They want info to fight the people who don't want to move. [...]. Asked about shielding. Gove + Simon Clarke (CST) seen to be pro action. Sounds like PM will not move this week. Cx still very opposed to any move."</p>	306-307

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
21.12.21	<p>"Have I lost a page from Sat 18th. I think I didn't record end of the PM meeting at 4pm. [...]. With Cx firmly against moves + no Sos present. [...] says he is trying to dip Cx hands in blood. (Found it! written along the side). Today lots of countries acting - but not us, PM is reported as saying the decision is "finely balanced". Once again we are quick with the science (others are asking us for it) + slow with the reaction."</p>	310

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
10.07.20	"[...] PM will do a face coverings message. Chris spoke well about taking a balanced approach. I said measure as we go and make those numbers public. Also don't do things that back you into a corner re school openings."	86

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
30.03.20	"All departments should use their plans & activate ([...] what action actually happened)."	2

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
30.03.20	"NHS absent or very low key at COBR. Bed numbers - we keep asking for & not getting - Why not ramping pandemic flu plans?"	3

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
15.10.20	"SAGE pushing for "can't we exempt children from rule of 6" - we said no not unless CO want to revisit."	223

UK COVID-19 INQUIRY: EXTRACTS FROM SIR PATRICK VALLANCE'S NOTEBOOKS

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
21.05.21	"Says he [PM] isn't very persuaded by long Covid."	149