

Message

---

**From:** Whitty, Chris [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0B3EE62E0CA04E978730B14F9B416A1E-WHITTY, CHR]  
**Sent:** 08/07/2020 11:00:48 AM  
**To:** Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) [P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk]; Emma Payne [emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]  
**CC:** Katie Waring [katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) [GCSA@go-science.gov.uk]; Simon Ridley [simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) [GCSA@go-science.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** RE: Reopening closed sectors - follow up [Official Sensitive]

Dear Emma

Agree with Patrick. We are all comfortable with the outdoors openings as a reasonable and small additional risk to the opening up last weekend. The higher risk and high risk indoors sectors being opened before we have any indication of what will occur as the result of the relaxations last weekend adds probably appreciable risk, to an unquantified risk at the moment. Whether the extra 2-3 weeks of opening is worth this extra but currently unquantifiable risk of local or national resurgence needs to be made clear to Ministers as a pretty tricky choice. It would not be my advice if they want to have cases at the lowest rate possible, or they want to minimise the risk of local closures. The danger is we may end up having to close down multiple sectors which are now open, at least locally or regionally, because the brakes have been released rapidly in these higher risk sectors and areas of the country, and Ministers need to be aware of that. The two advantages of delaying by a few weeks are that incidence is still going down in many of the riskier areas giving more room for manoeuvre, and we will have a better understanding of where our risk is and can adjust accordingly. We all want to be able to open up as much as can be achieved whilst R stays below 1, but there is a great deal of uncertainty where we will be in 3 weeks as a result of the recent changes.

Chris

---

**From:** Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) <P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 July 2020 09:56  
**To:** Emma Payne <emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Whitty, Chris <Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Katie Waring <katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) <GCSA@go-science.gov.uk>; Simon Ridley <simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) <GCSA@go-science.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Reopening closed sectors - follow up [Official Sensitive]

Dear Emma

I think you have laid out the choices and the relative risks of each. The bit that I think should be clearer is that the measures just taken were considered to be at the upper end of risk and we have not had a chance to see what impact they will have. The lesson from other countries would suggest that going slowly and measuring the effect with an appropriate time interval between action and measurement is important. We can already see that lifting of measures can cause very significant increases in cases and outbreaks and there is no reason to suspect that the same would not be true here, particularly as we still have thousands of new cases each week.

So I would emphasise three things:

1. The proposed changes to outdoor activities are the safest
2. Allowing time to be able to measure the trajectory of the epidemic following release of measures is a very important part of managing this well. We will have no new information on that by next week.

3. Some environments will stay intrinsically risky – indoors, crowded, unable to distance, people from multiple areas who do not normally mix.

I agree with the idea of being most cautious in areas where we already see upticks in cases and potential outbreaks.

If in three weeks we knew that cases were still coming down it would be reassuring and would provide evidence for being able to move further.

Best wishes

Patrick

---

**From:** Emma Payne <[emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 08 July 2020 09:09  
**To:** Whitty, Chris <[Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk)>; Vallance, Patrick (GO-Science) <[P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk](mailto:P.Vallance1@go-science.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Katie Waring <[katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>; Government Chief Scientific Adviser (GO-Science) <[GCSA@go-science.gov.uk](mailto:GCSA@go-science.gov.uk)>; Simon Ridley <[simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Reopening closed sectors - follow up [Official Sensitive]

Dear Chris and Patrick

Thank you both for your input this week as we work up the options for announcements on the remaining closed sectors. Following yesterday's meeting with the PM we have drawn up a set of short one-page notes on the areas where we need to advance decisions. These are works in progress but we would welcome any views from you. As ever, I'm afraid timelines are tight (apologies) - we're firming up deadlines with No 10 but if you are able to have a look at these as soon as possible this morning we'd be very grateful. We're also looking to find a time to discuss the proposals on regional carve-outs with you.

The notes are:

- a short cover note setting out the options of what could be announced on Thursday;
- a slide setting out the options against a timeline and the risks of each option;
- a note on criteria for determining whether / when to open the higher risk sectors;
- a note on the option of carving out higher risk regions (noting that we will need to provide fuller advice on this later today).

We'd be very happy to discuss if helpful.

Many thanks

Emma

Emma Payne  
Director, Strategy and Roadmap, COVID Taskforce

[emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

Diary: 

NR	<a href="mailto:cabinetoffice.gov.uk">cabinetoffice.gov.uk</a>	NP	I&S
----	--	----	-----

On Tue, 7 Jul 2020 at 09:25, Simon Ridley <[simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)> wrote:

Chris - many thanks to you and all for the quick, consolidated reply.

On pilots and stadia, I agree that the things that go around it probably matter more than testing what happens in the stadia. I assume this is essentially a question of scale.

I'm sure there will be more we discuss over the next couple of days as we pull together everyone's views across government.

Best wishes  
Simon

Simon Ridley  
Director General  
COVID-19 Taskforce, Cabinet Office  
E: [simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

M: **I&S**  
Private Office

**NR** {Head of Office}  
{Diary Manager}

**I&S**

On Tue, 7 Jul 2020 at 08:52, Whitty, Chris <[Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear Emma and Simon

This is a consolidated reply from Patrick, Jenny, JVT and me. I attach some specific comments from JVT.

We are broadly supportive of the categorisation, but concerned about the timings. For July the **outdoor** things should all be OK provided people avoid changing rooms etc. The one outdoor exception may be bringing spectators back in stadia – the issue is not the outdoor venue but everything that goes along with it, the pubs, the travel etc and that would have to be managed.

For the indoor things in July there is risk, especially gyms and we would **ideally advise pulling the other things in the amber section from July into August**. We realise this may be difficult where political promises have been made, but that would be our advice to give time to see the effect of the current, substantial changes and therefore how much headroom there is.

For **performing arts**, Jenny is reasonably comfortable that more can be opened up safely along the lines recommended and with the mitigations agreed as long as there is opportunity to build some limitations in. On **beauty industry** it is variable but Jenny agrees this is possible with agreed mitigations, although JVT makes the point this is an area where there is a large workforce who do not have English as a first language or in some sectors many controls.

For the ones listed as August there needs to be clarity on what the pilots will be designed to show.

The one that worried us most in this section is **conferences**. Almost everything else has people moving around and not spending long periods close together, or potentially being separated by distancing. Conferences are about bringing people together to network indoors. I think that needs much more thought on what would be measured in the pilots. For all of these they should remember that they won't see the impact until after the schools have started.

We agree about the sectors which would not be able to open until spring 2021, and your high risk red categories.

We would be very happy to discuss any details.

Chris

**From:** Emma Payne <[emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 06 July 2020 21:43

**To:** Vallance, Patrick <[p.vallance1@go-science.gov.uk](mailto:p.vallance1@go-science.gov.uk)>; Whitty, Chris <[Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Whitty@dhsc.gov.uk)>; Harries, Jenny <[Jenny.Harries@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.Harries@dhsc.gov.uk)>; Van Tam, Jonathan <[Jonathan.VanTam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.VanTam@dhsc.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Simon Ridley <[simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>; Katie Waring <[katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:katie.waring@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Reopening closed sectors - follow up [Official Sensitive]

Patrick, Chris, JVT, Jenny,

Thank you very much for your time earlier this evening where we talked through potential next steps in the roadmap.

Following our discussion, please see attached a table which captures the remaining sectors / activities which are still closed. (Grateful if you could treat this sensitively and please keep on tight circulation).

The rows in the 'July options' section of the table capture those sectors / activities that Ministers have previously discussed as options for opening during July. You made clear points on the risks of some of these sectors and activities, and the fact that the impact of the 4th July changes will not be felt for some weeks. We have sought to set out the relative risk for each of these sectors / activities in the table, but would welcome your views on this.

With apologies for tight timeframes, we would be grateful for any comments as early tomorrow morning as possible - and would be very happy to discuss further on the phone if helpful.

Many thanks,

Emma

Emma Payne

Director, Strategy and Roadmap, COVID Taskforce

[emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) | I&S

NR [@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:emma.payne@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) I&S

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.

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.