

[21/11/2020, 17:56:46] Matt Hancock: Quite an extraordinary COVID o

[21/11/2020, 17:58:40] Helen Whately: You may have noticed I decided to keep quiet!

[21/11/2020, 18:04:10] Matt Hancock: wise

[21/11/2020, 18:04:17] Matt Hancock: and we didn't get to care homes!

[21/11/2020, 20:50:05] Helen Whately: No 10 are chasing to get me to agree the visiting-out option 1 policy this eve. I don't agree. I think we should do visiting-out with testing. Flagging in case you're being asked too.

[21/11/2020, 21:32:11] Matt Hancock: Haven't been asked. Hold firm to your views

[21/11/2020, 21:32:47] Matt Hancock: Also separately we are working on "freedoms" for people who test - this can be one of them!

[21/11/2020, 21:43:03] Helen Whately: Thank you. Am holding firm.

[23/11/2020, 12:47:03] Helen Whately: Our 1:1 is being pushed back. Things to flag with you: staff needed for visitor testing & lack of insurance/indemnity = likely gap between expectation on visiting and what will happen in practice. Plus some negative reactions from SC stakeholders that extra £ in SR for NHS trailed but not SC. I'm leaning in on vaccine deployment to SC, yet to be convinced it's in hand.

[23/11/2020, 12:49:21] Matt Hancock: I want to have the meeting!

[23/11/2020, 12:49:40] Helen Whately: Now or later?

[23/11/2020, 12:51:43] Matt Hancock: later today I hope

[25/11/2020, 11:13:28] Helen Whately: I promised the leader of Kent County Council that I would let you know....that they don't want Kent treated as one for tiering. That said he recognises the problem is across most of the county - and so you can probably only make a case for Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Wells in any event.

[25/11/2020, 11:41:46] Matt Hancock: Thank you

[25/11/2020, 20:59:50] Helen Whately: image omitted

[25/11/2020, 21:00:12] Matt Hancock: Yes. Is it a problem?!

[25/11/2020, 21:07:37] Helen Whately: Taken aback as we've been working on that policy - surely we should be announcing it - and something positive I can lead on

[25/11/2020, 21:12:28] Matt Hancock: Yes! You should. Very sorry you're understandably miffed - I had no idea. I had a script thrust into my hands and Alan Mak in my office. You should do it properly soon with bells and whistles

[25/11/2020, 21:16:03] Matt Hancock: Also we have AMAZING workforce data tomorrow which we need to maximise

[25/11/2020, 22:31:29] Helen Whately: Keen to do that. Meanwhile here to help with handling colleagues re tiering.

[26/11/2020, 07:37:39] Matt Hancock: Thank you. Will be bumpy today but we will get there

[27/11/2020, 22:12:23] Helen Whately: Briefing Stakeholders 27 November 2020.pdf • 1 page document omitted

[27/11/2020, 22:13:31] Helen Whately: A helpful note from the Maidstone and Tonbridge Wells hospital. Sharing in case you're speaking to Greg Clarke. I have made sure Tom Tug and Helen Grant both have it.

[29/11/2020, 17:27:15] Matt Hancock: Oh my I've just had 75 minutes with Kent colleagues - all furious about being locked down - but the real question is: why is the virus spreading so fast in Kent?!

[29/11/2020, 17:48:22] Helen Whately: Tough. They are angry, reflecting the anger of many of our constituents. My theories for why it's so bad; people are poor (the wealth of West Kent disguises it), lots of key workers who cannot work from home, also can't afford to isolate, combined with low compliance (people don't think COVID is a problem here, don't like facemasks etc)

[29/11/2020, 18:11:27] Matt Hancock: The odd thing though is why it's going in the wrong direction during national lockdown

[29/11/2020, 19:23:40] Helen Whately: Yes. That does puzzle me. Judging by my inbox and conversations locally, most people think 'Kent is fine, except Sheppey and Thanet' so I wonder if that's affected compliance. But I haven't seen any evidence.

[29/11/2020, 19:26:30] Helen Whately: I'm doing some investigating, will let you know if I find out anything helpful

[29/11/2020, 19:28:56] Matt Hancock: Thank you 🙏

[02/12/2020, 11:12:25] Helen Whately: Yippee!! Great job. Now to social care...your help pushing for how many social care staff we expect to vaccinate each day of week one would be helpful. I'd like it to be 'as

many as we can get to the vaccination sites' with the limiting factor being the number of vaccinations that can be done each day. I'm suspicious NHS assumption is that majority of tests in week 1 should be for NHS staff. So far care homes massively up for it.

[02/12/2020, 13:23:00] Matt Hancock: 100%. Have you spoken to Nadhim Z too to land this point also?

[02/12/2020, 14:14:21] Helen Whately: Yes

[02/12/2020, 21:37:19] Helen Whately: Something odd going on with social care vaccine comms - have you got a minute?

[03/12/2020, 12:34:21] Matt Hancock: <https://www.carehomeprofessional.com/first-round-of-covid-vaccinations-wont-include-care-home-residents/>

[03/12/2020, 12:34:25] Matt Hancock: FYI

[03/12/2020, 12:58:10] Helen Whately: Thx

[03/12/2020, 17:11:11] Helen Whately: image omitted

[03/12/2020, 17:39:37] Matt Hancock: That's news to me

[06/12/2020, 12:49:06] Helen Whately: What do you think of this concept? Carols in Care Homes – Lesley Garrett & Out To Perform : Monday 14th December e.g. 4pm

Mission: uplift the nation's care home residents and staff in a dedicated live-streamed outdoor carol event, fronted by Lesley Garrett

"The nation's best Christmas Card imaginable to care homes the length of the UK"

Scope: 30 minute outdoor carol event (location t.b.d.) which we live stream to all care homes in the UK via YouTube Live, and make available for the remainder of December on demand.

[06/12/2020, 12:50:46] Helen Whately: I keep hearing 'our staff are desperately tired and feel forgotten again'... and Lesley Garrett / Stuart Barr (who is a friend) have come up with this concept. I've tested the idea with a couple of care homes in confidence and response was very positive.

[07/12/2020, 15:10:30] Helen Whately: Can you get number of care workers being vaccinated tmr from Emily?

[07/12/2020, 15:10:47] Helen Whately: Also what is the start date for delivery out to care homes

[08/12/2020, 22:45:35] Helen Whately: Great job today - but more seriously, really great job over the many many many long days (& short nights) - since the pandemic hit us - to get us here. H

[09/12/2020, 07:46:51] Matt Hancock: Thank you - and the same to you

[10/12/2020, 13:50:49] Matt Hancock: Hi - good news: we've announced allocations of our £600m pot for tackling infrastructure backlog and your trust is on the list. Details and full list in the link below. If you need details of individual projects please let me know or of course speak to Allan, my spad. Hope all is well. Matt

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/build-back-better-600-million-to-upgrade-and-refurbish-nhs-hospitals>

[13/12/2020, 18:04:06] Helen Whately: It's not at all clear to me how Kent's hospitals will cope over next few weeks, let alone with the consequences of Christmas easements. I don't see how we can have them. And maybe saying situ is too bad to have Xmas bubbles would also give people the message.

[13/12/2020, 18:07:47] Matt Hancock: yes I think that's very wise

[13/12/2020, 20:47:19] Matt Hancock: image omitted

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[13/12/2020, 21:30:36] Helen Whately: I checked in with East Kent Hospital CEO on Friday. Wasn't sounding good. And that's before the cases that will come through from last week's infections.

[14/12/2020, 07:44:39] Helen Whately: My briefing for 8.30 says I should tell london MPs they are going into tier 3 'subject to covid O' on Tuesday. Does that sound right to be pre-empting covid o?

[14/12/2020, 07:46:40] Matt Hancock: No. I would say that we are making a decision this morning but the data look terrible

[14/12/2020, 07:46:46] Matt Hancock: Thanks for checking in.

[14/12/2020, 07:46:57] Matt Hancock: Good luck - appreciate this is a tough gig

[14/12/2020, 07:47:43] Helen Whately: That makes sense

[14/12/2020, 08:18:20] Helen Whately: On schools - I personally think we should be flexible this week. Telling my secondary schools to be stay open sounds like we don't appreciate the situ - they don't have enough teachers anyway. More PCR testing won't help them. And primary schools is a mixed picture,