

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

Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
28.07.2020	<p>“PM shown a graphic of the spread [...] Loved it - "that's the most brilliant thing I have seen". He clearly deals in simple images and words. EID was mentioned and someone called [REDACTED] described? coms based approach to Asian minorities etc. Outbreaks ↑ in work place and schools now (data shown). Numbers ↑↑ amongst Indian and Pakistani origin. Putting in place financial incentives for people testing and isolation.”</p>	102

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
28.07.2020	"Scots [...] changing isolation rules ahead of UK overall "all they have done is tell everyone to stay at home at the English tax payers expense". PM pushing for an aggressive response. Gove calmed him down. PM on a rant about DAs. And their differential messaging."	102

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
24.08.2020	"Scotland breaks ranks over face coverings and schools despite CMO having worked hard to get all CMOs aligned to a very good statement released the day before."	127

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.08.2020	"Hancock - praising himself for mask decision. He knows that Scotland decision was not based on medical advice (ie it was totally political)"	130

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.08.2020	<p>“Then a bizarre meeting on mass testing. John Bell gave a big pitch for lighthouse labs and how they are the envy of the world. And then pitched Lampore [...]. It was a ...presentation of everything from lateral flow being nearly there to Lampore. PM said, ‘So we are ready to go’ to which then JB had to admit we didn’t have it working yet. [...] Simon Case looked like he would explode [...]. All it did was stoke ridiculous optimism (at a time when we have become capacity limited again on testing). SAGE discussion much more rational but possibly a bit too negative (all the problems identified with mass testing).”</p>	130, 132

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
04.09.2020	"[Scotland clearly not following a Covid elimination strategy despite was D? and others say - they are trying to manage numbers like we are!]"	140

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
25.09.2020	"COBR - Scotland clearly going their own way despite professing wanting to do things together. Any talk of elimination is long gone. Sturgeon says they have had work from home throughout and pleased everyone else is joining them. Doubts that package is enough - wants more household restriction. Calls for regular COBR meeting [...] 3 nations want to know where their money is coming from. Lots of "Barnet consequential" questions."	180

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.09.2020	"Devi Sridhar and Scotland seem to have forgotten their "elimination strategy" that "England should follow" as students are locked in Glasgow University and cases soar."	189

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
27.09.2020	"Medley wants to write a piece on how the science isn't really in disagreement, it's just that the government hasn't said what it wants. Slightly bonkers. And frankly people like Gupta and Heneghan are in a different place about what the science says."	189

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
10.10.2020	"Devi Sridhar has revised her position again but Times gives her great coverage as a sort of prophet!"	213

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
12.10.2020	"COBR - not really a COBR at all but more of a talk to the DAs and then a series of "give us more money questions. Scotland "we want to be as coherent as possible, we share a common problem" - then went on about money."	218

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
26.10.2020	"Gove argues for imposing things on mayors. "Why are we negotiating. This is the govt of the UK" Just make it happen" [and he says "we made a fundamental mistake at the beginning by having Tier 3 at too low a level"]."	240

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
22.11.2020	<p>“AZ - Vx positive - but complicated - 70% (90% with one of their regimens) Pre-Cabinet - data shows many areas now higher than first wave for hospitalisations. Ian D told me Covid 24th cause of death in August, 19th in September, 3rd in October [...] Rees Mogg: ‘Why are the projections always the most gloomy interpretation of the data? Can’t we be more cheerful?’ CMO: ‘It’s difficult to be cheerful about people dying.’ Cabinet & PM - still going on about freedom passes. Hancock reports on tiers & praises Liverpool & slags off Manchester & ‘poor leadership there that delayed action.’ All [...] party political.” Gove says he thinks he will agree a package with the DAs re Christmas. Says we should realise that ‘this relaxation will ↑ transmission’ - the question therefore is whether this is a price worth paying. PM says, ‘Public don’t want to throw it all away for the sake of a rip roaring Christmas.’ Sharma says, ‘Retail sector and hospitality will welcome some of this’ [...] They still endlessly push for opening more up and greater travel freedoms etc. (c.f. New Zealand!) They see opening up as a mark of success. Raab warns against using the term ‘freedom passes’ - plays into the hands of those who think the overall thing is [overdue] [...] Cx says, ‘We are facing a three month lockdown in Tier 3 for most of the country.’ He does try to have his cake and eat it. Supports things but then says why all wrong [...] Cabinet is more effective post DC.”</p>	284-285

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
22.11.2020	“Hancock reports on tiers & praises Liverpool & slags off Manchester & “poor leadership there that delayed action” All [...] party political”	284

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22.11.2020	“Cx says we are facing a 3 month lockdown in Tier 3 for most of the country. He does try to have his cake & eat it. Supports things but then says why all wrong.”	285

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22.11.2020	"Cabinet is more effective post- DC"	285

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000280061	Page
22.11.2020	“COBR [...] DAs eventually approving Christmas plan but Sturgeon ‘in principle’ - i.e. will change. Huge hoo ha about definition of a household!”	287

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
20.12.2020	“NERVTAG New variant discussion - same conclusions as on Friday. Most people had high confidence [...]”	6

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20.12.2020	"COBR - [REDACTED] all worried about 'friction at the border!'"	6

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
10.01.2021	"Covid O and COBR today. This is all about compliance. People now talking about long term plans & herd immunity raising its head again. People saying trying to aim for eradication just daft & throwing people off planning."	30

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12.01.2021	“Lots of pointing out how slow DAs have been in deployment. They are desperate to score points.”*	36

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
03.02.2021	"Note that most cases were in Scotland which has been bragging about tougher border measures zero Covid etc."	82

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
12.05.2021	"Occurred to me that when I started I wanted to answer questions fully & with the information I know. Now I want to answer to avoid saying anything. This is how the press undermine the very thing they say they are trying to uphold."	137

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
12.05.2021	"Cabinet & Covid O - to agree inquiry - PM says shouldn't drag on for years & [shouldn't?] be judge led. Gove says "Sturgeon & Drakefield supportive due to your wise leadership" PM laughs & says "yes they may want to see the Govt skewered repeatedly over months!"	137

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
28.05.2021	<p>“Dashboard- levels may be ↓ in Bolton Younger age groups in the hospitalisation group now+ very few vaccinated people. Getting UK wide data is difficult because they need to ask permission of the DAs PM says 'this is crazy we need to change the law' PM looks at Bolton data + says "there is cause for Limited-shallow optimism" Simon Stevens points to other areas where hospital cases have doubled in a week"</p>	154

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06.09.2021	"PM looks at Scottish numbers + trajectory + gets concerned"	230

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05.10.2021	"NZ formally ends 'elimination' policy. Scotland gave up their attempts months ago."	239

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05.10.2021	“Javid [...] at a party conference event saying the conference wouldn’t have taken place if he had listened to SAGE + that he wouldn’t accept their suggestions for ? lockdowns. Both factually incorrect statements.”	239

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05.10.2021	"In the UK the government is now explicitly accepting current level of deaths in UK"	239

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19.10.2021	"Cabinet - totally against moving to Plan B + discussing its effectiveness anyway ('didn't work in scotland,' says Alister Jack). They can't say we didn't warn them. I push Vx boosters again"	248

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25.11.2021	"New variant in SA looks really bad. I got DHSC to take seriously [REDACTED] Covid (O) - all go for travel bans etc but Shapps + other try arguing for the travel sector + what a problem that will be. DAs support it. But all worried about people coming in through other routes".	268- 269

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
10.12.2021	<p>“1st call with PM. He starts off saying, ‘Let’s hear about this blood curdling omicron stuff.’ 1 in 3 cases now omicron in London PM keeps clutching at it being more mild. Was told it would have to be 10x more mild to make a difference. Says we didn’t land a clear enough scare message on Wednesday (I wonder why!!!- distractions partygate) Says it should be a job for the boffins. CMO says boffins have been out boffing all morning. PM pushes hard to avoid shutting any more down wants boosted population ‘set free’ (a la [...]) + a plan for how to deal with in Vx. says just putting money into NHS won’t work [...] COBR(Gove chaired)- Sturgeon pushes very hard for more measures needed. Says national infrastructure threatened by number of people who would be off work. Drayford comes in + says SAGE wants more. Asks CMO whether enough is being done ‘It depends on your objectives minister’ - Shapps sounding alarmed now + wants More done! [...] He wants analysis of how much NHS pressure Would be reduced by use of how many antivirals [...]”</p>	286

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Date	Extract from Sir Patrick Vallance's Notebooks - INQ000303282	Page
15.12.2021	“COBR- Sturgeon thanks the testing team + says ‘you cannot see this as a tension between health + the economy’-‘ If you don’t protect health you cannot protect the economy’ ‘we must act to reduce transmission’ same point I made to cabinet [...] Drakeford rightly asks the Q about NHS capacity N.Ireland says ‘we can’t do what SAGE says because you aren’t giving us money’ - she says SAGE says go early This meeting shows that SAGE advice is translated into different policies by different nations”	297

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26.12.2021	"DAs get same science + make different political policy choices"	317