

Whatsapp Exchange with Jeanne Freeman, Cabinet Secretary for Health.

[23/10/2020, 10:37:51] Jeanne Freeman: Hi. Just caught up with the Jason stuff. Engagement in political space he absolutely should not have done. I'm sure that is being pointed out to him as we speak but I also think he needs to come off Twitter for a bit and off media including off the ball tomorrow. He needs to get back into the clinical adviser space. J

[23/10/2020, 10:38:22] Liz Lloyd: Me and FM explained it to him instantly last night -

[23/10/2020, 10:38:48] Liz Lloyd: Our challenge will be getting the others to go and explain everything - they are far less willing

[23/10/2020, 10:39:45] Jeanne Freeman: Nicola might if we explain why? And we need Gregor out there. Shall I text G? Would that help? Off the ball can manage without anyone tbh

[23/10/2020, 10:40:03] Liz Lloyd: Gregor decided to attack the press in a tweet as well. He offered to take it down - but by that point it was too late.

[23/10/2020, 10:40:46] Liz Lloyd: I think they are too tired and the public attacks are getting to them

[23/10/2020, 10:42:33] Jeanne Freeman: I thought his tweet wasn't so bad and the press response is a bit petulant- he can get past that with his usual careful considered etc. They are tired - but no-one can get more tired than FM. They're not doing her any favours which is one route to changing their behaviour since both are v loyal to FM - and tbh neither needs to be on Twitter.

[23/10/2020, 10:43:13] Liz Lloyd: I do not disagree - or they need to keep their tweets to highlighting the NHS etc which Gregor normally does

[23/10/2020, 10:43:36] Liz Lloyd: Gregor could go back on broadcast today and I'll encourage Nicola

[23/10/2020, 12:43:55] Jeanne Freeman: Had a long exchange with Jason there. He's feeling a bit 'punished'. Wonder if we could use him for one or two bits of media over weekend - alongside Gregor /Nicola? More shared? I know it's his ego too but don't want his head too far down and he's more sensitive to all this than he perhaps let's on

[23/10/2020, 12:44:37] Liz Lloyd: I want him back out to clear it up and move on. I actually think off the ball is possibly a safe place for him to do that

[23/10/2020, 12:46:40] Liz Lloyd: And I think I'll end up using him today or tomorrow so he will get back. DCMO has picked up a few bids for today and over the weekend.

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[23/10/2020, 12:55:28] Liz Lloyd: Also think FM has just cleared the decks for the pair of them in answering a question.

[23/10/2020, 12:58:02] Jeanne Freeman: She has. Good answer too.

[23/10/2020, 12:59:05] Liz Lloyd: Do you want to tell him he can do Off the Ball - so long as he talks though his approach to xmas with me first.

[23/10/2020, 13:00:22] Jeanne Freeman: Will do...dear lord it's like having weans!!

[29/10/2020, 21:46:00] Jeanne Freeman: Liz. I think we will have a problem with the travel - don't move out of your LA - even if it's 3 and next door one is 3. I thought it was going to be don't go from 3 to 2 or 1 (& vice versa)? Ayrshire is 3 LAs. All L3. Cumnock to Ayr is about 15 miles but it's 2 LAs. I really worry this will break compliance because it will be seen to make no sense. I'm nowhere near these discussions now we have the Ken show - why is that? And

do you know, Ken has created issues with boards and DPHs which I will deal with separately with him. J

[29/10/2020, 21:50:40] Liz Lloyd: FM was aware of a range of advice on that decision. The lesser 3 areas, those on the borderline with 2, won't get down if we keep letting it spread between areas by letting people spread it . All exemptions apply. And layering health boards across councils to say it's ok on Ayrshire or Lothian now - but if one council within them moves down it's not defeats the simplicity. Consideration that in 10 days at next review of allowing people to go to neighbouring LAs at same level but not to any LA at same level.

[29/10/2020, 21:51:40] Jeanne Freeman: And the Ken show?

[29/10/2020, 21:51:41] Liz Lloyd: FYI Graeme mentioned earlier about care statement maybe being postponed. Was heavily referenced as being next week so be a challenge to move it out of the week.

[29/10/2020, 21:53:20] Liz Lloyd: Ken was asked by FM to deliver the strategy.

[29/10/2020, 21:53:35] Liz Lloyd: His job to get the civil service working to deliver it.

[29/10/2020, 21:54:12] Liz Lloyd: Combining all harms needed an official without a direct interest in any one harm. No other DG has that

[29/10/2020, 21:58:44] Jeanne Freeman: Better a week late than a crap statement on Care.

[29/10/2020, 22:14:14] Liz Lloyd: Given the public commitments given to it being next week, following cabinet, before Graeme moves it - if he can - suggest minuting FM.

[29/10/2020, 22:54:41] Jeanne Freeman: I had already planned that. But it was a heads up possibility to Graeme. We will see what officials produce tomorrow and if it is close to good enough my intention is to let FM look at it over weekend. Remember this one unlike NHS has to be socialised with NR and yo a degree nearer finish with Donald MacAskill so I have certainly COSLA but preferably both, on board. That's why they got an extra week - and to allow pick up from PHS report. So I will know better tomorrow when I see the umpteenth revise.

[30/10/2020, 17:09:03] Jeanne Freeman: From today's work and weekend, we'll be ok for publishing and statement on Tuesday. J

[18/11/2020, 07:45:56] Jeanne Freeman: Wonder if you can help? I've got east and south Ayrshire in my constituency (both councils SNP led) and a lot of furious people about decision on North Ayrshire - council leadership and a lot on SM and in my inbox. Do we have lines to justify this? People are reading the info, pointing to the numbers, not disagreeing with L4 but that is being undermined by NAC not moving to L4. I'll defend it but given I don't understand it either would be useful to have the argument. Thanks

[18/11/2020, 08:26:10] Liz Lloyd: Yeah no probs will sort something today

[21/11/2020, 20:11:49] Jeanne Freeman: Hi. Have we done any focus groups or private polling on where people are re Christmas and relaxing of restrictions?

[21/11/2020, 20:13:47] Liz Lloyd: Focus group research was round last week. Polling circulated yesterday in the weekly set.

[21/11/2020, 20:15:47] Liz Lloyd: We stalled UK plans to announce tomorrow - so further work underway to refine the proposals. Us and Wales working on narrowing scope. For Tv tomorrow - talks continue, aim of 4 nations agreement. But people should wait for a proper announcement rather than plan on speculation.

[21/11/2020, 20:17:20] Liz Lloyd: The focus groups said folk would break the rules if we don't let them have some kind of xmas- the polling less so. So not clear cut.

[21/11/2020, 22:09:53] Jeanne Freeman: Thanks Liz.

[27/11/2020, 13:51:34] Liz Lloyd: Thanks for doing the briefing

[27/11/2020, 13:51:57] Liz Lloyd: Self isolation payments for parents of isolating kids is something being fixed - I think on Monday

[27/11/2020, 14:01:12] Jeanne Freeman: No problem. Good re s/l and kids. Thanks

[03/12/2020, 18:16:10] Liz Lloyd: Meant to catch you on [redacted] NR. FM won't go for Jan - but end March perhaps?

[03/12/2020, 18:17:25] Jeanne Freeman: I agree re end January - completely mad. I'll look properly at pro/cons re March and come back to you.

[03/12/2020, 18:17:49] Liz Lloyd: Grand. Ta

[11/12/2020, 17:35:50] Jeanne Freeman: Was there a judicial review today re Ed and L3?

[11/12/2020, 17:38:09] Liz Lloyd: Yeah waiting for judges decision

[11/12/2020, 17:38:40] Jeanne Freeman: Neither Gregor nor Jason knew about it so who gave public health advice?

[11/12/2020, 17:39:37] Liz Lloyd: The lawyers had all the info from last weeks decision. It was very specific to the process. No one gave evidence on either side

[11/12/2020, 17:42:39] Jeanne Freeman: OK. While I've got you, have you got anywhere with health Comms?

[11/12/2020, 17:44:10] Liz Lloyd: No not yet. There's an absence of an instant answer but another conversation on Monday.

[11/12/2020, 18:10:55] Jeanne Freeman: Thanks Liz. I know it's not straightforward but with a 2000% increase in health correspondence and media lines every day I can't keep re-writing these and writing from scratch all opinion pieces which I have to push to get. I know we have good people who worked on health before - now they may not want to come back (I can see that!) but

[11/12/2020, 21:04:30] Liz Lloyd: You've probably seen - but for awareness - we won

[11/12/2020, 22:07:30] Jeanne Freeman: I have - by getting the Perm Sec to intervene and remind Ken Thomson that Health just might have an interest in this.

[12/12/2020, 12:58:02] Jeanne Freeman: Liz I am trying to get to the bottom of the wearisome exercise in either I or senior clinical advisers or both being kept in the loop as Covid related considerations and submissions are undertaken and produced which have a direct bearing on health. I am now reading the Dominic Munro submission on L3 hospitality which came from commission from you for FM on 9/12. I of course completely understand reduced copy lists and am grateful that CMO and NCD were included but I am not understanding why I was not. I really don't think I am likely to get 'over excited'. Thanks

[12/12/2020, 12:59:12] Liz Lloyd: No you are not likely to get over excited. Stakeholders and mr Ewing are.

[12/12/2020, 12:59:29] Liz Lloyd: I'm out just now but feel free to call anytime instead of messaging

[15/12/2020, 13:30:04] Jeanne Freeman: Catherine due to take up her appointment at start of January. What are your thoughts on Comms around this - I'm thinking we should get it done this week or next. Comms would be NHS Golden Jubilee since that is where the Centre is and this is an NHS appointment.

[15/12/2020, 14:26:52] Liz Lloyd: I've been waiting for [redacted] Na comms to send a proposal through to health comms. Nothing received yet. It should come from [redacted] and I'm happy if it's next week

[15/12/2020, 18:27:11] Jeanne Freeman: Proposal with comm from [redacted] & SG Health Comms to announce low key next week.

[21/12/2020, 21:49:41] Jeanne Freeman: Hi. Just read Ken's recent submission re stricter L4 etc in response to FM. If more parliamentary time this week is needed it's possible to drop statement given I am also issuing detail to MSPs on Wednesday like past 2 weeks and can do the same next week. An option so you have it if needed. J

[25/01/2021, 10:04:48] Jeanne Freeman: Morning. Can you help with couple of things? We copy FM office and briefing unit into all my queries and pursuit on vaccines - thinking is FM knows what I'm doing. But I'm not sure these are read since FM office then makes same/similar asks of team. Is it possible to sort this since it recreates work. Second, Graeme wants to talk to me about election and testing - an ask from you? J

[25/01/2021, 10:16:11] Liz Lloyd: A suggestion. I think it might help ensure opposition don't try and scrap election if one of the steps we can add is some asymptomatic testing of the counters and possibly those activists who would go into a count hall. So something like lateral flow day before and day of etc - I want to remove any reason they may have to suggest it's unsafe.

[25/01/2021, 10:16:56] Liz Lloyd: On emails I think sometimes it's just that they overlap. I'll speak to PO and they can chat to [NR] but I also see it in reverse.

[19/02/2021, 18:44:31] Jeanne Freeman: Liz. To see below. He was out of the blue trailing a 'if there is supply could you deliver 1/9 by mid April'. All of us said "show us the numbers". Clearly BEIS can't but I suspect they'll have a 'tahdah' on this to coincide with Johnson's route map. If they do and we haven't seen the confirmed numbers in black and white I think we need to be very robust in response. J

[NR], I don't know if [NR] or [NR] have got anywhere on certainty of additional supply to warrant a change to mid April but my officials have not. Meeting with BEIS last night, BEIS officials could not provide numbers or assurance of increase. In fact only alert we were given was a drop in AZ supply for weeks commencing 22/2 and 1/3. If there is certainty of increased supply that would be sufficient to deliver a changed date then we absolutely need to see it directly and not via any media briefing. We can't be going round this circle again.
Jeane

[19/02/2021, 20:58:26] Liz Lloyd: Hi thanks and agree we need to see supply. If they know they have it we should to. If we do, I assume with a bit of effort we can get capacity up again and do same or better.

[19/02/2021, 23:03:35] Jeanne Freeman: We absolutely can but it takes a few days to book in more numbers and then you just roll but from AZ meeting on Monday and what Pfizer have said so far I'm not seeing where it is coming from. Have Monday meeting with Pz and FM so we'll see.

[03/03/2021, 19:35:26] Jeanne Freeman: You doing ok?

[03/03/2021, 19:37:03] Liz Lloyd: [I&S]

[I&S]

[03/03/2021, 19:37:24] Liz Lloyd: Thanks for picking stuff up. Sorry you had to endure Gove

[03/03/2021, 19:44:07] Jeanne Freeman: Oh he's an odious little man but it was no bother. You take care.

[05/03/2021, 13:59:23] Jeanne Freeman: Liz as my PO has explained I can't do the briefing on Monday. This has been clear to everyone for some time.

[05/03/2021, 14:18:24] Liz Lloyd: Sorry hadn't reached me.

[09/03/2021, 15:09:02] Jeanne Freeman: This is a soup related question. Is FM in Holyrood tomorrow?

[09/03/2021, 15:11:03] Liz Lloyd: Not currently - covid committee from SAH.

[09/03/2021, 15:17:40] Jeanne Freeman: Thanks