[09/03/2021, 10:09:41] Ken Thomson: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.

[09/03/2021, 10:09:41] Joe Griffin: audio omitted

[11/03/2021, 13:32:46] Joe Griffin: Hi. I'll be a bit late for 4 harms. Apologies. FE/HE is going to be really difficult. If we get squeezed we may need another dedicated session to work through it.

[11/03/2021, 13:40:54] Ken Thomson: The DFM rang me. He, and you, can assume that the FE/HE ask will make it into the Cabinet paper, so that he can argue for it round the table.

[18/03/2021, 10:30:47] Joe Griffin: Is it just me or are Gregor and Jason in a particularly unhelpfully hawkish place just now? Gregor on the modelling and Jason on a single AZ trial on SA variant. I get that these are *possible* problems but surely we can't let them drive future decision making? Especially when they also depend on "a collective global strategy" which is for the birds. Or am I being too optimistic?

[18/03/2021, 15:37:26] Ken Thomson: I'll forward you something. Jason understands better than Gregor that advisors advise and Ministers decide. One for that walking meeting.

[18/03/2021, 15:46:54] Joe Griffin: 👍. Really looking forward to it!

[23/03/2021, 15:20:36] Joe Griffin: Surely to some extent, we do actually do need to cut some budgets? I hate to come over all ⬚ NR ⬚, but....

[23/03/2021, 15:29:28] Ken Thomson: You catch me somewhat despairing of how any of our interesting discussions leads to actual change.

[23/03/2021, 15:30:03] Joe Griffin: God, yes.   I am getting even more ⬚ Name ⬚ with this item of business!

[23/03/2021, 15:33:28] Ken Thomson: D'you know ⬚ Name ⬚

[23/03/2021, 15:33:58] Joe Griffin: Don't think so. You mentioned him the other day. When is his talk?

[23/03/2021, 15:34:31] Ken Thomson: Yay!

[23/03/2021, 15:34:58] Ken Thomson: I was going to post a Calvin strip in the fiscal sustainability discussion.

[23/03/2021, 15:35:23] Joe Griffin: At times like this we're all Calvin.

[23/03/2021, 15:35:32] Ken Thomson: image omitted

[23/03/2021, 15:35:55] Joe Griffin: 😆

[23/03/2021, 15:36:16] Ken Thomson: It's also how we manage the resilience of staff.

[23/03/2021, 15:36:38] Joe Griffin: Yes. So true. Blimey.

[23/03/2021, 15:36:52] Joe Griffin: And the breadth of our commitments.

[07/05/2021, 11:56:05] Joe Griffin: Hi   Could do with a quick word when you have a mo. Thanks. J.

[14/05/2021, 09:16:33] Joe Griffin: Comrade. Let me know when you've spoken with Alisdair. I would guess Leslie has a B/F to ask me for updates during the course of the day....

[03/06/2021, 09:47:30] Joe Griffin: Schools finishing up soon should help with R number no? I appreciate that may not be the big issue it once was, but should assist...

[03/06/2021, 09:50:42] Ken Thomson: We hope so; but the new cases are disproportionately among the young, even after allowing for vaccination; so it depends a bit on what the kids do when out of school. "Get outdoors" is a good message.

[03/06/2021, 09:51:44] Ken Thomson: The good news in those charts is the vaccinated: 65+ are double-dosed. They're the group most at risk of severe illness.

[03/06/2021, 09:52:09] Joe Griffin: Yes. That's great news.

[03/06/2021, 09:55:09] Ken Thomson: 835 new +ves this morning. Is going to feel like a kick in the stomach.

[03/06/2021, 09:55:34] Joe Griffin: I see that. And Lothian overtaking GG&C.

[03/06/2021, 09:56:13] Joe Griffin: On the plus side, signs of economic recovery and kids are in school.

[03/06/2021, 09:57:43] Ken Thomson: Yes. We reckon we can tolerate R > 1 for 2-3 weeks (with v large uncertainty on that number); but not indefinitely. So June is critical.

[03/06/2021, 09:58:48] Ken Thomson: Meanwhile, some boffins are revising their estimate of Delta's transmission advantage from 0-50% to 50-100%.

[03/06/2021, 09:59:05] Joe Griffin: Woah.

[03/06/2021, 09:59:54] Ken Thomson: Which (even) Gregor doesn't think is real-world. But it might be meant to scare the PM into not opening nightclubs in a fortnight or so.

[03/06/2021, 09:59:55] Joe Griffin: Vaccines the thin red line then.

[03/06/2021, 10:00:22] Joe Griffin: It may need that! Double down on the Dom critique