

10/09/2021, 12:11 - Humza: Okay I'll take a look if we're doing that.

I have a note coming up to you next week about the actions we're taking - and hoping to take - in the coming weeks. Some of them aren't cheap so trying to get clarity on the level of consequential coming.

10/09/2021, 19:40 - Nicola Sturgeon

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

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10/09/2021, 20:57 - Nicola Sturgeon: I know - I think I'm just generally getting tired of this side of politics. The faux outrage, manufactured division, blatant misrepresentation - some things are more important. Anyway, thank you!

10/09/2021, 20:59 - Humza: Indeed, esp on twitter.

Btw ive just had Sajid Javid contact my office to request a meeting tmrw morning on an urgent vaccines issue. I asked for the meeting tonight if its urgent but theyve pushed back so tmrw morning it is.

I'll obviously feed back directly if it's something I think you needed alerted to immediately.

10/09/2021, 21:07 - Nicola Sturgeon: Ok thanks

11/09/2021, 13:36 - Humza: Let me know when you have 5mins for a call ill update you on the back of the sajid javid call

11/09/2021, 13:39 - Nicola Sturgeon: Can speak now if you want

12/09/2021, 12:35 - Nicola Sturgeon: I see UKG just ditched vaccine passports. Our line should be that

aware of i meant the 4 Nations comparison. I also saw a 10% figure for England on some clinicians twitter feed but couldnt see a source so asked officials to check it out, as i wanted to use in Committee on Thursday but was told it wasnt available.

08/10/2021, 19:14 - Nicola Sturgeon: Ah ok

08/10/2021, 19:17 - Humza: Also fyi good meeting on Cop26 health contingency. I'm a lot more reassured than I was at the beginning of the week in terms of plans in place. I'll make sure the appropriate info is in the Cabinet briefing for Tuesday.

08/10/2021, 19:26 - Nicola Sturgeon: Ok good

18/10/2021, 16:57 - Humza: Im not sure how you keep a straight face in these meetings "we all must be humble in the face of this virus" from him, seriously?!

10/11/2021, 12:12 - Humza: I blame your cautious optimism for today's figures. Will check in to see what the story is behind them.

22/11/2021, 20:34 - Humza: BBC News - Covid-19: Venues 'may have to close doors during Christmas'  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-59367779>

Northern Ireland in a bad way - expect their sluggish Booster campaign part of the problem

22/11/2021, 20:34 - Nicola Sturgeon: Saw that. I suspect their slow booster progress a big problem for them

22/11/2021, 20:35 - Humza: Yeah undoubtedly

22/11/2021, 20:37 - Humza: I'll msg Kate about this separately but could Covid Health Consequentials (some of which we're sitting on) be used to provide financial assistance to businesses...or cover the cost of recruiting door staff? May be a stretch but it's for the protection of public health...

22/11/2021, 20:38 - Nicola Sturgeon: Yes, speak to Kate about it

25/11/2021, 20:05 - Humza:

<https://twitter.com/chrischirp/status/1463885539619311616?t=F5vNo0AdoZF5PmzoX19SvA&s=08>

25/11/2021, 21:32 - Humza: <Media omitted>

25/11/2021, 21:32 - Humza: \*earlier

25/11/2021, 21:32 - Humza: Am sure Gregor is messaging you too but UK Govt seem to be taking it seriously. Im speaking to Gregor after they do a wash-up.

25/11/2021, 21:32 - Nicola Sturgeon: Gregor just messaged

25/11/2021, 21:33 - Humza: 👍

26/11/2021, 11:03 - Humza:

<https://twitter.com/DrEricDing/status/1464119235655970819?t=zlvyZRDpntn97KEPe0oS6PA&s=08>

26/11/2021, 11:03 - Humza: News just gets better and better...

26/11/2021, 11:03 - Nicola Sturgeon: Indeed - just read that

26/11/2021, 11:04 - Humza: Hopefully it has been caught early enough to buy ourselves time.

Suppose we will learn more about this variant every day.

26/11/2021, 11:05 - Nicola Sturgeon: Whether we want to or not!

26/11/2021, 11:10 - Humza: 🤔

26/11/2021, 16:59 - Nicola Sturgeon: 🤔 <https://twitter.com/skynews/status/1464230400251867136?s=24>

26/11/2021, 17:05 - Humza: 🤔

I think we should be pushing hard for the UK Govt to go back to reintroducing PCR testing only at the Border

26/11/2021, 17:07 - Humza: We should, while being sensitive, get in amongst our African communities in Scotland who have a lower vaccine uptake. I'll put something in the system - BEMIS have been quite helpful with this.

26/11/2021, 17:07 - Nicola Sturgeon: Yes on both.

26/11/2021, 17:09 - Humza: Also Belgium case was reportedly an Egyptian traveller. Maybe our pcr testing for those who have arrived in the last ten days from southern Africa should be extended to the wider African continent

26/11/2021, 17:10 - Nicola Sturgeon: According to sky an Egyptian traveller who returned on 11/11 and displayed symptoms on 22/11 - very long and I'd have said unlikely gap?!

26/11/2021, 17:10 - Humza: Yeah that seems v unusual.

26/11/2021, 17:11 - Humza: I'll speak to [NR] about the PCR issue and see if he and I can speak to

Sajid Javid and Grant Shapps tonight, i think the welsh and northern irish will be with us on this  
26/11/2021, 17:12 - Nicola Sturgeon: Maybe we should reintroduced pcr testing generally ourselves - imperfect unilaterally but may help push uk  
26/11/2021, 17:13 - Humza: Yeah could do. Im going to call my welsh and ni counterparts and see the strength of feeling from them.

Doing it ourselves is a good shout actually.  
26/11/2021, 19:47 - Humza: No need to respond but just an fyi as I know there is a lot going on.

On new variant I'm meeting with Sajid Javid and other Ministers at 1815. I'll push them on reverting back to pcr for all arrivals. Given cases are in Europe I also think there should be at least be consideration of asking all travellers to self-isolate for 10 days, even as a short term measure. Im aware we haven't discussed this so I won't present it as a definitive position, but if you're content I'll say we should be exploring the issue in the coming days. Given that there are cases emerging across the world, and on a precautionary principle i think we should give it serious consideration.

26/11/2021, 19:48 - Nicola Sturgeon: I'm ok for you to push this. I think we should be going for maximum caution

26/11/2021, 19:48 - Humza: Okay grand. Will do.

26/11/2021, 21:35 - Humza: <Media omitted>

26/11/2021, 21:40 - Nicola Sturgeon: Ok thanks for that. Keep in touch over w/e

27/11/2021, 17:33 - Humza: You may have been updated, but I'm on a call with Sajid Javid and PM will announce all (non-Red) travellers will have to self-isolate at home, regardless of vaccination status, awaiting the result of a PCR test on Day 2. If negative they can be release, on Day 2, from self-isoaltion.

Gregor's advice is that this is a mistake on public health grounds. And we should do a 10-day. We should probably look to make a decision relatively quickly given the PM will do a press conference at 5pm today.

27/11/2021, 17:34 - Humza: Very clear DFT were pushing back on any self-isolation. So theyve clearly compromised on Day 2 test and release

27/11/2021, 17:37 - Nicola Sturgeon: If we go to 10 days we'll be back in position of people just flying into England. So we don't get health benefit but we cripple our airports.

We should push on call for 10 days - or more than 2 - but I'm not sure about practicalities of going it alone.

Happy to discuss tho

27/11/2021, 17:43 - Humza: They aren't going to budge from 2 days. I've pushed it on this call, as has Gregor. It is very clear they are going against the public health advice they've received.

Agree with your point about Scots just arriving at English airports. I think we should say in our public communications that we would much prefer a PCR on Day 2 and Day 8 (with potentially release on Day 8?) But we are reluctantly aligning.

27/11/2021, 17:43 - Nicola Sturgeon: Reluctantly aligning for now given practical problems but we have argued for it to go further and will consider further

27/11/2021, 17:44 - Humza: Okay. I'll get a line drafted and ensure you have sight of it.

27/11/2021, 18:18 - Humza: Also should have said they will also change regs so that any contact of a positive \*omicron\* case will have to self-isolate for 10days regardless of vaccination status. Will use S-gene drop out as a proxy measure for Omicron

27/11/2021, 18:18 - Humza: We'll get you a proper read out

30/11/2021, 19:22 - Nicola Sturgeon: You still in parliament?

30/11/2021, 19:22 - Humza: Yup

30/11/2021, 19:22 - Humza: Ill come round if you want

30/11/2021, 19:22 - Nicola Sturgeon: Pop though when you have a mo

30/11/2021, 20:24 - Humza: Noticed the PMs language is around \*offer\* of a vaccine by end of January as opposed to administering the actual jags

30/11/2021, 20:24 - Nicola Sturgeon: Indeed

03/12/2021, 13:36 - Humza: I am sending a note to you about this but didn't want you blind-sided

turned away

04/12/2021, 00:16 - Nicola Sturgeon: Ok 👍

04/12/2021, 17:25 - Humza: [Irrelevant & Sensitive] Was it quite busy?

04/12/2021, 17:26 - Nicola Sturgeon: [Irrelevant & Sensitive] Tho apparently they'd put extra vaccinators on - so probs queues everywhere else across the city as a result!!

04/12/2021, 17:28 - Humza: 🙄 not picking up major issues just yet. Still too much queuing in certain centres that dont have adequate indoor provision - Dundee city centre is one example, but we're working through the issues with each Health Board

04/12/2021, 17:29 - Nicola Sturgeon: I think most people understanding.

I was still getting asked by media about the 24/12 issue so I really laboured point about England not even doing it yet

04/12/2021, 17:33 - Humza: Im clearly having a mind blank - 24/12 issue?

04/12/2021, 17:34 - Nicola Sturgeon: People being turned away because they hadn't been 24 weeks from second dose even though jcvi now say 12 weeks

04/12/2021, 17:35 - Nicola Sturgeon: Realise I made it seem like a date - Xmas eve rush?!

04/12/2021, 17:35 - Humza: Ah sorry. I was thinking date wise you were meaning xmas eve.

Yeah our media are beyond ridiculous

05/12/2021, 16:53 - Humza: My apols I'm not going to make Gold. [Irrelevant & Sensitive]

[Irrelevant & Sensitive]

I had a call with officials yday and fed back some comments. If it was anything else I'd cancel!

05/12/2021, 16:53 - Nicola Sturgeon: Ok not probs. [Irrelevant & Sensitive]

05/12/2021, 16:54 - Humza: Thanks 👍

08/12/2021, 22:20 - Humza: BBC News - Sanna Marin: Finland's PM sorry for clubbing after Covid contact

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-59577371>

08/12/2021, 22:21 - Humza: Youre clearly the only politician in the Western World not to go clubbing during Covid...

08/12/2021, 22:21 - Nicola Sturgeon: I say that. Possibly the coolest breach so far!

08/12/2021, 22:22 - Humza: I begin to feel old when PMs are younger than me!

08/12/2021, 22:23 - Nicola Sturgeon: Indeed! How do you think I feel?

08/12/2021, 22:24 - Humza: Say what you want about Douglas Ross he is at least consistent in opposing every intervention against Covid, be it here in Holyrood or Westminster...

08/12/2021, 22:24 - Nicola Sturgeon: He's trying to look like he's got principles 😂

08/12/2021, 22:25 - Nicola Sturgeon: But still, that's a good line!

08/12/2021, 22:28 - Humza: Pfft noone will believe that...

Just saw a clip of the Commons, the vitriolic reaction from his own backbenches - different planet down there.

Like you I'm worried about the weeks ahead. Do we get to a tipping point where if we don't take action there's simply no doubt that we let this new variant run away from us, and all the impacts that has for public health, nhs etc. Anyway i know you're thinking about it every minute of the day and I trust your gut, it has served us well thusfar.

08/12/2021, 22:30 - Nicola Sturgeon: I've been having some good chats with Gregor, Jason today - I do think we have to move and quite fast. I also think ukgs knows it has to go further. Will try to catch you tom post FMQs

08/12/2021, 22:37 - Humza: Happy to chat whenever.

09/12/2021, 21:08 - Humza: Jusy fyi this PHS advice has caught us all (including the Chair of PHS) by surprise. They issued it on the back of a tweet from Nick Phin. No coordination with Govt etc. Ive let them know how annoyed i am at the lack of coordination with Govt. And the potential it has to cause confusion when the detail of these annpuncements aren't worked through.

09/12/2021, 21:09 - Humza: Not that i necessarily disagree with the advice (in fact I dont) just got the inevitable questions about what constitutes a Party etc

09/12/2021, 21:09 - Nicola Sturgeon: I'm pretty annoyed about them doing it without authority or