

Message

From: Ben Warner [nobody@invalid.invalid]
Sent: 25/01/2021 3:36:23 PM
To: Philip.Duffy [philip.duffy@hmtreasury.gov.uk]
Subject: FW: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

Hi Phil,

I am very concerned about HMT analysis around the Covid, and that it will lead to incorrect or misleading advice to the CX.

Below is an email from Angela that I think succinctly sets out my concerns.

I am unsure what is the right way to interact with HMT on this and help it improve, so I thought I would reach out to you as both CSA of HMT, and someone who has been incredibly helpful in the past.

Regards,
Ben

From: "McLean, Angela SCS (CSA-Personal)" <Angela.Mclean113@mod.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 25 January 2021 at 10:55
To: "rob.harrison" <rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, Ben Warner <BWarner@no10.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@no10.gov.uk>, "Gardiner, Clare" <Clare.Gardiner@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

I have emailed [REDACTED] saying HMT changed the model after I QA'd it and I don't know how. Anything HMT says about infectious disease modelling therefore has no endorsement from me - they are on their own. Given their inability to spot egregious errors in other things they were sent I do not have any confidence in their ability to hack a simple, sensible model.

However, I do think we should be building a fast loop where simple model generates specific questions and sophisticated models address them straight away. Clare, how is [REDACTED] getting on with running current SPI-M models?

Angela