

Message

From: McLean, Angela SCS (CSA-Personal) [angela.mclean113@mod.gov.uk]
Sent: 25/01/2021 10:55:19 AM
To: Harrison, Rob - CO (OFF-SEN) [rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Ben Warner [bwarner@no10.gov.uk]
CC: [redacted] NR [redacted]@no10.gov.uk; Gardiner, Clare [clare.gardiner@dhsc.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

I have emailed Chris and Patrick 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 JBC getting on with running current SPI-M models?

Angela

From: Rob Harrison <rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 January 2021 10:30
To: Ben Warner <BWarner@no10.gov.uk>
Cc: McLean, Angela SCS (CSA-Personal) <Angela.Mclean113@mod.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted]@no10.gov.uk; Gardiner, Clare <Clare.Gardiner@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: COVID strategy meeting - modelling requirements

Ben,

I don't think we agreed to stop development; we agreed not to develop the model in the way CX asked, or to allow any decisions to rest on it. But we still want to improve this tool and allow us to explain/explore SPI-M's findings.

HMT *very* bruised by last week. They should be OK where we ended up: we have offered an alternative solution to meet CX's requirements, and had lots of input into the commission. In return, they must follow rules of the road for use.

I'm concerned about two scenarios: either that HMT break from the pack, hack the model and use it to create their own spurious plan; or that we undermine all confidence in the toy model, which I still think is a very good addition to the armoury, and has definitely improved the quality of understanding/discussion in policy space.

Very happy to meet in smaller group as a 'governance board' to discuss next steps, with us plus Clare and [redacted] NR [redacted] Would that be useful?

Rob

On Mon, 25 Jan 2021 at 09:34, Ben Warner <BWarner@no10.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Rob,