

**The Welsh Government  
Minutes of meetings of the Cabinet  
13 & 15 September 2021**

Present: Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford MS (Chair)  
Rebecca Evans MS  
Vaughan Gething MS  
Lesley Griffiths MS (15 September)  
Jane Hutt MS  
Julie James MS (15 September)  
Jeremy Miles MS  
Eluned Morgan MS  
Mick Antoniw MS

Dawn Bowden MS  
Hannah Blythyn MS  
Julie Morgan MS  
Lynne Neagle MS  
Lee Waters MS

Officials: Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary (13 September)  
Des Clifford, Director General Office of the First Minister  
Will Whiteley, Deputy Director Cabinet Division  
Toby Mason, Strategic Communications  
Jane Runeckles, Special Adviser  
Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser  
Alex Bevan, Special Adviser  
Daniel Butler, Special Adviser  
Ian Butler, Special Adviser  
Kate Edmunds, Special Adviser  
Sara Faye, Special Adviser  
Clare Jenkins, Special Adviser  
Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser  
Mitch Theaker, Special Adviser  
Tom Woodward, Special Adviser  
Christopher W Morgan, Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)  
Name Redacted Cabinet Secretariat  
Tracey Burke, Director General, Education and Public Services  
Andrew Goodall, Director General, Health  
Reg Kilpatrick, Director General, COVID-19 Crisis Coordination  
Andrew Slade, Director General, Economy, Skills and Natural Resources  
Frank Atherton CMO  
Rob Orford, Chief Scientific Adviser Health  
Fliss Bennee, Co-Chair TAC  
Liz Lalley, Deputy Director Recovery  
Tom Smithson, COVID-19 Restart  
Helen Lentle, Director Legal Services

- 2.7 Cabinet agreed that the current Alert Level 0 should be retained for the current review period.
- 2.8 It was reported that the four CMOs had submitted advice to Government recommending that all healthy children in the UK between the ages of 12 and 15 should be offered a single dose of the vaccine. This would help reduce disruption to education. The CMOs concluded that this factor had tipped the balance in favour of vaccination over the advice previously provided by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. There was a meeting of all four UK Health Ministers later that morning to consider the recommendation of the CMOs.
- 2.9 Cabinet confirmed the Welsh Government should follow this advice.
- 2.10 Ministers considered the advice set out in the paper about the introduction of compulsory domestic vaccine certificates for entering high risk events and venues, such as nightclubs.
- 2.11 The Scottish Government had announced a mandatory certification scheme, which would be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> October. However, the UK Government had signalled, the previous day, that it would be postponing its much publicised plans for a similar scheme in England.
- 2.12 Cabinet had a wide ranging discussion about whether to mandate such a scheme in Wales, particularly around the legal and ethical issues, and suggested another potential option was to close high risk venues in response to an escalating public health situation. However, before Ministers could take a substantive decision, officials would need to provide further advice on a number of issues.
- 2.13 It was agreed that Cabinet would reconvene later that week once officials had gathered the additional information requested by Ministers.

### **Wednesday 15 September**

- 3.1 The First Minister referred to a note by officials, which provided an update on the changing context where Ministers would need to take a decision on whether to introduce mandatory vaccine certification for high risk venues in Wales. The note also responded to a number of key issues raised at Cabinet on Monday.
- 3.2 Ministers were again reminded that the restrictions relating to COVID-19 within the Coronavirus Control Plan were for the purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling or providing a public health response to the incidence, spread of infection or contamination. There must be a threat to public health and the restrictions had to be proportionate in what they were intending to achieve.
- 3.3 It was not clear why the UK Government had changed its position on Sunday about introducing mandatory certification in England from 1<sup>st</sup> October.