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Simon Case 16 Jul 2020 5:27 AM +00:00

Isn't your dept the one drafting the regulations - don't you own them?! So you decide what they say?! Have you seen the draft paper for CS? Any major worries? We've trying to balance realism with Johnsonian optimism! Chris doesn't like it

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I saw an early draft of the paper, which was part sensible but contained a few mad suggestions.

I have fed in. I'd like to see the latest draft...

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Yes. It is infuriating. This is how I'm drafting the regs, so any continued briefing any other way is only going to cause more problems.

I'd been intending to find a moment to complete the conversation we had at the weekend a couple of weekends ago.

The issue is that because No10's authority stems from the PM, if the PM isn't interested in details, you have to delegate the details to departments, not try to make them up.

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Agree. I will find out where Slacky got his lines from. Am pretty sure they won't have come from inside No 10. The PM asked me about it at the morning meeting - with Slacky's support, I said that you had set out the position on the morning round. So I don't know how that changed later into something else

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The latest version (the one that went to the PM last night) should have been sent to Natasha last evening. It will almost certainly still contain mad suggestions - because this is where the PM is at. We will actually have to have a real discussion at CS today to agree the right balance

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Could you possibly tell whoever is briefing this morning's happy broadcast Minister or they will dig a deeper hole. Then we can let it rest and concentrate on more important matters than pret-gate...