



Irrelevant & Sensitive

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Coronavirus: On the back of developments over the weekend with the spread of the virus to Italy, South Korea, Iran etc., we have re-tested with the Chief Medical Officer whether we would consider any additional measures on UK borders to prevent the further spread of the virus. The scientific advice from the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser does not currently consider port of entry screening to be effective – not everyone with Coronavirus will have a temperature, and not everyone with a temperature will have Coronavirus. This will be kept under review, as will the question of what measures should be taken to contain a localised outbreak, were one to occur in the UK.

On the international situation, travel advice has been updated for two cities in South Korea – Daegu and Cheongdo, which are the epicentres of the outbreak – advising against all but essential travel. Also, we have not yet had a British national fatality from Coronavirus (apologies the information this morning was not correct). There is however one BN in Hong Kong (a passenger of the Diamond Princess) currently on life support. More broadly, DFID and FCO are closely monitoring health systems in the countries which have cases emerging to consider whether there could be any requirement for further evacuations.