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Minutes

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CABINET
—————Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet
held by video conference onTUESDAY 9th June 2020
At 1030 AM
—————

P R E S E N T

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime MinisterThe Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the ExchequerThe Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
First Secretary of State, and Secretary of State
for Foreign and Commonwealth AffairsThe Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home DepartmentThe Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Minister
for the Cabinet OfficeThe Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC MP
Lord Chancellor, and Secretary of State for
JusticeThe Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Secretary of State for DefenceThe Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social CareThe Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy, Minister for COP26The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for International Trade, and
President of the Board of Trade, and Minister
for Women and EqualitiesThe Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State for Work and PensionsThe Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for EducationThe Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and
Rural AffairsThe Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local GovernmentThe Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport

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The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Secretary of State for Scotland

The Rt Hon Simon Hart MP
Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Baroness Evans of Bowes Park
Lord Privy Seal, and Leader of the House of
Lords

The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media
and Sport

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Secretary of State for International
Development

The Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP Minister
without Portfolio (and Conservative Party
Chair)

ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury

The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Lord President of the Council, and Leader of the House of Commons

The Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Chief Whip)

The Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP
Attorney General

Professor Chris Whitty CB
Chief Medical Officer for England and the UK
(Items 2 and 3)

Sir Patrick Vallance
Government Chief Scientific Adviser
(Items 2 and 3)

Secretariat

Sir Mark Sedwill

Name Redacted

J Key

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The Cabinet:

- took note.

Covid-19 Response

THE PRIME MINISTER said that the following day he would announce steps to relax social distancing measures from 15 June. The situation would be managed carefully, based on scientific advice. Credit was due to those who had worked hard to get the virus under control. This was about getting the balance of risks right. The economic effects of a prolonged freeze would be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of individuals and to social justice. But the current incidence rate of the virus remained too high to take all the actions that colleagues wanted.

Continuing, THE PRIME MINISTER said that the steps he would announce would be along the lines of the Roadmap published the previous month. There would be measures to reopen non-essential retail and to allow individuals in different households more social contact. It would not totally unlock the economy, as that would put too much pressure on 'R' (the reproduction rate of transmission). If 'R' were to go above one, the virus would grow exponentially and a national lockdown might be required again. There were some signs that this was beginning to happen in those parts of the US which had come out of lockdown.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- a) the approach set out by the Prime Minister had the support of the Cabinet. The Government had published a plan, the plan was working and because it was working, social distancing measures could be relaxed further;
- b) consideration should be given to the sequencing of the announcement and the subsequent changes so that people were not forced to continue restrictions over a weekend that they knew would be lifted the following week;
- c) as the economy reopened, the public expected consistency and common sense. Zoo owners had pointed out that other outdoor attractions, such as National Trust outdoor spaces and Kew Gardens, had been permitted to reopen whereas zoos had not;
- d) the public would support quarantine if it was explained that as the virus diminished in the UK, the country should not be reinfected. The hard work done by the people of the UK should not be undone;
- e) 'air bridges' would allow travel between the UK and other