

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

CABINET

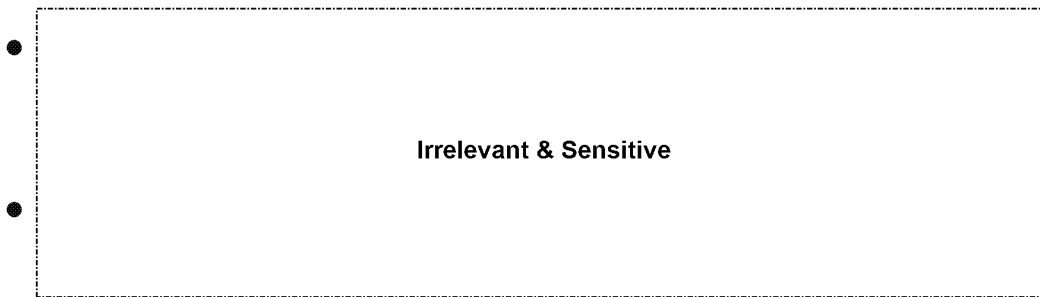
0930 - 1030 TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2021

FROM: Cabinet Secretary

DATE: 6 December 2021

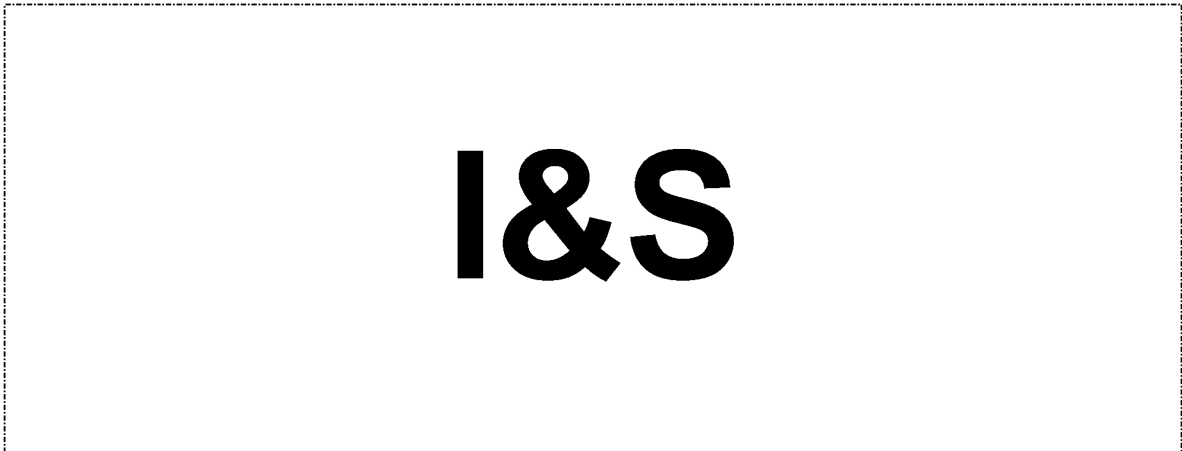
BACKGROUND

- You will chair Cabinet on Tuesday 7 December.



Irrelevant & Sensitive

AGENDA



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Aim: *To update the Cabinet on parliamentary business and current events this week.*

Covid-19 Update

- As of 14:00 5 December there were 197 confirmed cases in England, 48 in Scotland of the Omicron variant and 1 confirmed case in Wales. The Omicron variant has been confirmed in 6 of 9 regions (South East, South West, London, East Midlands, North West and East of England). After South Africa, the UK now has the second highest number of reported confirmed Omicron cases internationally. We can expect this number to continue to rise.
- Last week I announced a number of temporary measures to slow the ingress of Omicron. On Saturday we announced that everyone aged 12 and over will need to show a negative pre-departure test prior to travel to the UK and we placed Nigeria on the red list.
- We need to monitor the situation carefully and will review the measures in 2 weeks' time. We stand ready to respond as necessary as our understanding evolves.
- We must keep everything crossed that our vaccines will continue to do the job against Omicron, keeping people out of hospital and saving lives.
- And we need to redouble our efforts: by the end of January, all adults will be offered their booster jab and 12-15 year olds are now eligible for a second shot in their arms.
- It is important that the public remain cautious and we should encourage people to test to manage the risk, in particular for Christmas events. Consistency in our communications to the public will be crucial in the weeks ahead.