

Message

From: Rob Harrison [rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
on behalf of Rob Harrison <rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> [rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Sent: 18/11/2021 11:23:59
To: [Name Redacted] [Name Redacted]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
CC: Elkie Symes [elkie.symes1@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; [NR] [NR]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk; [NR] [NR]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk; Kathy Hall [kathy.hall@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; [NR] [NR]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk; Sapana Agrawal [sapana.agrawal@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Ben Cropper [ben.cropper@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Susan Mangles [susan.mangles@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]; Simon Ridley [Simon.ridley@cabinetoffice.gov.uk]
Subject: Re: [Actions & Readout] CabSec Discussion on Winter Strategy - Weds 12:15

[Name Redacted]

A further update.

HMT have refused to share the analysis supporting the figures below and now backed away from quantifying the effect. They have instead shared a [note](#) which draws qualitative conclusions (of plan B measures, WFH is likely to have the highest economic impact, falling disproportionately on consumer-facing sectors in city centres) and emphasises the uncertainty, but does not include any estimates, even approximate ones. This is frustrating but not a totally unreasonable analytical position, given the high levels of uncertainty over (a) the effect on behaviour of reimposition of a requirement to WFH, and (b) the impact of those behavioural changes on economic activity (net and distributional). SAGE/SPI-M have also said that they are unable to quantify the effect on transmission, and provided full workings.

The remainder of [our analysis](#) stands, but it no longer includes quantified estimates. We have not yet integrated HMT's latest comments (which only arrived last night) but will now do so.

This means that, at present, there are no figures which either we, or HMT, are able to stand behind. £11-18bn should be struck from the record. We are however progressing the work with ONS on the relationship between mobility and spending, and we will keep you updated on developments.

Regards, Rob

On Wed, 10 Nov 2021 at 18:22, Rob Harrison <rob.harrison@cabinetoffice.gov.uk> wrote:

[NR]

We are still pursuing this with HMT. They have gone up to PUS's office for permission to share the underlying work, and if we don't get it tomorrow I we might need to ask you to give it a nudge. We're also pursuing mobility-spending link with ONS. We will have more to say on this, and sorry it is taking longer than hoped.

Rob

On Wed, 10 Nov 2021 at 16:13, [NR] [NR]@cabinetoffice.gov.uk wrote:
Rob, Kathy, Sapana,

Thanks for the above on economic costs. Just to chase gently on other strands among the work going into PM prep:

- On Action [3], **Rob:** To confirm, is it your view then that 11-18bn is HMG best estimate of per annum cost for WFH restrictions (i.e. nothing more to be gained/modified from CTF analysis independent