

## Annex A

**From:** Ralph Roberts (NHS Borders) <Ralph.Roberts@borders.scot.nhs.uk>

**Sent:** 06 January 2021 17:19

**To:** Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: email leak to the press

Gregor

Apologies; I meant to say that from our internal email investigation we can find nothing to suggest this was leaked from an NHS email address

However that cannot be definitive and we also know this email was shared with Council colleagues. They will review this but I am not expecting any definitive response from them as to whether they have been able to identify how this happened

Ralph

#hello my name is...  


Ralph Roberts  
Chief Executive

***[Please note: I'm sending this email at a time convenient for me. I don't expect you to respond outside of your working hours, on a non-work day or at the weekend]***

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**From:** Ralph Roberts (NHS Borders)

**Sent:** 06 January 2021 17:16

**To:** 'CMO@gov.scot'

**Subject:** RE: email leak to the press

Gregor

I am sorry about this. without knowing exactly how accurate a reflection of the discussion it was, from the perspective of briefing us locally about the potential impact of the new variant it was helpful

Clearly, this now having made its way into the press is more than unfortunate and a lesson for Tim (& us all) about who we share comments to and being very careful about what we say in emails

Helpfully because of the further announcements that were made by the First Minister on Tuesday a number of the points Tim was making have in fact been overtaken by the move to a Lockdown on the

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**To:** Tim Patterson (NHS Borders); **To:** Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; CMO@gov.scot; [REDACTED]; Ralph Roberts (NHS Borders)

**Subject:** RE: email leak to the press

This is very disappointing Tim. I do not think that this is an accurate reflection of the meeting as it was recorded or establishes the context in which the comments were made. The chair of the NIMT may wish to respond separately to this.

Can you keep me updated on the result of any enquiry into the leak which I presume will now take place?

G

**Dr Gregor Smith**  
**Interim Chief Medical Officer for Scotland**  
**Scottish Government**

Room 1E:02A St Andrews House  
Regent Road Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[REDACTED]

Twitter: @DrGregorSmith

\*\*

**From:** Tim Patterson (NHS Borders) <tim.patterson@borders.scot.nhs.uk>

**Sent:** 06 January 2021 16:17

**To:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; Chief Medical Officer <CMO@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] **Subject:** email leak to the press

Dear Colleague

I would like to bring to your attention that a confidential email (attached) which I sent to my NHS Borders Board Executives, Scottish Borders Council Senior Management Team, Council Leader and chair of our IJB has been leaked to the Daily Record. I am a member of the NHS and Council teams as well as the IJB. I am also in regular discussions with the Council leader concerning our local approach to the pandemic.

The aim of the email was to brief my local senior NHS and Council colleagues on the new Covid strain that is now circulating widely in the Borders and to bring to their attention some possible mitigation measures that the DsPH have discussed. Please note that I mentioned in the email that:

'the DsPH met with the CMO to discuss these concerns and agreed that there needed to be a review of current pandemic mitigation guidance/messaging to meet the challenge and the following suggestions were discussed'.

I did not think it was appropriate to mention that these discussions occurred at the NIMT. Please also note that I did not state that the mitigations mentioned in the email were agreed by the DsPH- only suggested and discussed.

I apologise if any colleagues feel I acted inappropriately, however I think it was reasonable to share this information quickly given the current emergency situation. My aim was to bring all possible mitigation measures to the attention of my senior NHS and Council colleagues ASAP so that we can consider any appropriate immediate actions to help us get on top of our local outbreak.

I am not sure what the Daily Record intends to do with my email but I don't think there is much in it that should be too surprising to the public as most suggestions have now been superseded by the lockdown.

Kind regards

Tim

Dr Tim Patterson  
Borders Director of Public Health

*"The median return on investment for public health interventions is £14.30 saved for every £1 invested" (British Medical Association, 2017)*

NHS Borders Scottish Borders Council  
Headquarters Council Headquarters  
Education Centre Newtown St Boswells  
Borders General Hospital MELROSE TD6 0SA  
MELROSE TD6 9BD  
(Address for correspondence)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

email at NHS: [tim.patterson@borders.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:tim.patterson@borders.scot.nhs.uk)

email at SBC: [tim.patterson@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:tim.patterson@scotborders.gcsx.gov.uk)

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