

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 15:01

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey)

<Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General) Cooper P (Penelope) ; [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture and Major Events; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Audrey has approved the following answer which, for consistency, can be issued to both the BBC and Daily Mail.

Based on the evidence paper (10 Dec, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Omicron in Scotland - evidence paper - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)), Mr Yousaf was correct to say we were tracking worse for infections.

We update and publish new modelling each week. The parameters of the best, central and worst cases change as new interventions have an impact, booster take up improves and behaviours change.

The latest edition before the festive period was Modelling the Epidemic Issue 83 ([Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic \(issue no.83\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)). According to that publication we were still on a trajectory that was tracking along the overlap in the worst and central scenarios, when we consider the uncertainty associated with ascertainment (the ratio of confirmed cases to the total number of infections, including symptomatic, asymptomatic and reinfections).

Today we will be publishing updated modelling ([Publications - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)), which will include infections for the next month and hospitalisations, hospital occupancy and deaths out to two weeks.

Background

It is important to note that cases are not the total number of infections. The modelling uses error bars around the cases to reflect infections, with the bottom being 100% case ascertainment the ratio of confirmed cases to the total number of infections, including symptomatic, asymptomatic and reinfections), the top being 25% case ascertainment and the central point being 50%. We model better, central and worse to reflect different possible projections within the next few weeks. We include the ascertainment error bars to allow comparison with the better, central and worse projection ranges to account for this. It is also important to use specimen date rather than reporting date when interpreting how cases relate to infections. Lastly, for Omicron re-infections have the effect of reducing ascertainment based on PCR positive tests.

Data over the festive period has been subject to behavioural changes and other effects, therefore it is important to look at the full error bar when comparing estimated infections against the modelling, particularly at this point in the year.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 13:00

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Forgot to mention, the publication at 4pm- will this wildly contradict what Cab Sec? This is less of an issue given that of course for all the reasons already mention these models do change etc. But would be good to have an idea, as that is likely to be the next question from journalists following publication.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 12:50

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Thanks for this, however, I think it is important that we provide a consistent response to this. They are both asking the same central question and as long as the central answer is the same (Cab Sec was not mistaken) we should be providing the same response.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 12:48

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

[Redacted s38(1)(b)] are just drafting something for the DM one at the moment. [Redacted s38(1)(b)] will send around when it is finished.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 12:45

To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi All,

Just coming back on this, having had a chat with my TL, have tweaked the line slightly, think it's important to make it completely clear what we are saying. Let me know your thoughts and if you are content with this?

In terms of tweaking the response for Daily Mail, they are asking the exact same question, did Cab Sec say we were in the worse case scenario when we are not- therefore from a comms perspective the response should stay the same so that we are providing consistency across publications to the central query.

Line

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Omicron evidence paper which was published on the 10th December covers a period up to the 20th December. The data in Modelling the Pandemic vol 83 which was published on the 23rd December covers a period up to the 9th January. Both of these publications show a similar picture, a large degree of overlap between the central and worst cases and the actual trajectory falls around the midpoint of the worst case.

“And this is exactly the point which the Health Secretary was correctly making in his interview

“The modelling is updated each week and the parameters of the best, central and worst cases change as new interventions have an impact, booster take up improves and behaviours change. The next weekly update will be available today after 4pm.”

Background

Link to Modelling the Pandemic vol.83 [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic in Scotland \(Issue No. 83\) \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Figure 9 in vol. 83 shows the large degree of overlap in the central and worst cases.

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 07 January 2022 12:13
To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]>
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Thanks Audrey- [Redacted s38(1)(b)] if you are able to come back on this it would be much appreciated.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]
From: MacDougall A (Audrey)
Sent: 07 January 2022 11:35
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC
Importance: High

I'm really sorry but the Daily Mail query is slightly different.

I can't deal with this as I am in meetings until after 4pm. Can [Redacted s38(1)(b)] pick up and draft a response to the Mail question.

Audrey
[Dr Audrey MacDougall FAcSS](#)
[Scottish Government Chief Social Researcher](#)
[Head of C-19 Analysis Division](#)
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 07 January 2022 11:32
To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Thanks for this all- much appreciated.

If I am following correctly we are ok to keep the line drafted by Audrey? I have tweaked slightly just to pop the detail of where to find the figures into background. Let me know if you are all content with the below?

I have also stuck the Daily Mail's full query for info just in case this changes anything?

Lines

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The Omicron evidence paper which was published on the 10th December covers a period up to the 20th December. The data in Modelling the Pandemic vol 83 which was published on the 23rd December covers a period up to the 9th January. Both of these publications show a similar picture, a large degree of overlap between the central and worst cases and the actual trajectory falls around the midpoint of the worst case.

“The modelling is updated each week and the parameters of the best, central and worst cases change as new interventions have an impact, booster take up improves and behaviours change. The next weekly update will be available today after 4pm.”

Background

Link to Modelling the Pandemic vol.83 [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic in Scotland \(Issue No. 83\) \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-epidemic-issue-no-83/)

Figure 9 in vol. 83 shows the large degree of overlap in the central and worst cases.

Daily Mail full query

As discussed...

I'm on for the Scottish Daily Mail today.

Humza Yousaf said yesterday that Covid is at the “worst case scenario” predicted by Scottish Government modelling.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-59893246>

But the data suggests quite the opposite.

He was quoting the worst case scenario for infections from this SG modelling paper from 10/12/21:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/omicron-scotland-evidence-paper/>

See the graph – OMICRON1 attached – which only goes up to December 20th.

But now look at the SG modelling paper from 23/12/21:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-epidemic-issue-no-83/>

See the graph – OMICRON2 attached – which continues the projections up to January 10th.

Yesterday, there were 11,360 positive tests (probably the vast majority Omicron).

Double it – as SG modelling does - to take account of the infections not picked up by testing – so that's 23,000.

If we'd had 23,000 infections by December 20th (OMICRON1), yes, that would be in the region of the Worst Case Scenario.

But by January 6th, 23,000 infections is actually the Best Case Scenario as predicted by SG modelling (OMICRON2).

It's like being in the middle of summer and saying that a temperature of 20C is unbelievably hot for winter.

I take it that Mr Yousaf didn't intend to be misleading?

But is he going to qualify his statement and make clear that infection rates are actually lower than had been expected?

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: MacDougall A (Audrey)

Sent: 07 January 2022 11:26

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I'm happy to leave it at midpoint. If you eyeball the graphs this looks reasonable.

Audrey

[Dr Audrey MacDougall FAcSS](#)

[Scottish Government Chief Social Researcher](#)

[Head of C-19 Analysis Division](#)

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 11:20

To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]**Cc:** [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer ; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi Audrey,

[Redacted s30(b)(ii)]

From: MacDougall A (Audrey)

Sent: 07 January 2022 11:04

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major

Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

The Cab Sec may have been using the paper published on 10 Dec when talking about the worst case. He should have used the Vol 83 report published 23 Dec if he wanted the latest data. My point is that whichever of these he used he could still say that we could be tracking a worst case scenario as they show a similar position. To further complicate matters we will be publishing the next weekly update later on today.

So a better response might be

“The Omicron evidence paper published 10 Dec covers a period up to 20 Dec. The data in Modelling the Pandemic vol 83. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic in Scotland \(Issue No. 83\) \(www.gov.scot\)](#) published on 23rd December covers a period to 9 January. Both publications show a similar picture. Figure 9 in vol 83 shows a large degree of overlap between the central and worst cases and the actual trajectory falls around the midpoint of the worst case.

“The modelling is updated each week and the parameters of the best, central and worst cases change as new interventions have an impact, booster take up improves and behaviours change. The next weekly update will be available today after 4pm.”

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]– do you have anything you want to add?

Audrey

Dr Audrey MacDougall FAcSS
Scottish Government Chief Social Researcher
Head of C-19 Analysis Division

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 07 January 2022 09:49

To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]**Subject:** RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Morning Audrey,

Thanks so much for this, it is much appreciated. It is great that we can let the BBC know that given the overlap in the figures the Cab Sec was citing that he was not mistaken, makes things a bit easier in terms of the response. Just to make absolutely sure, the modelling pandemic vol 83. was published in early December, as this is the figures he referred to when on GMS?

If it is, I think we should look to still provide the clarity in the response about the overlap. When is the most up to date modelling due to be published?

Suggested lines

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“The published modelling data which was referred to is available in Modelling the Pandemic vol 83. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic in Scotland \(Issue No. 83\) \(www.gov.scot\)](#). Figure 9 in that document shows a large degree of overlap between the central and worst cases and the actual trajectory at that time falls around the midpoint of the worst case.

“The modelling is updated each week and the parameters of the best, central and worst cases change as new interventions have an impact, booster take up improves and behaviours change.

“For the most up to date published modelling data please visit XXXX.”

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: MacDougall A (Audrey)

Sent: 06 January 2022 19:16

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination <; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Thanks [Redacted s38(1)(b)], I had just sent a response but if you hold off until tomorrow we can use the material we plan to publish tomorrow so it is completely up to date.

Given the degree of overlap between the cases Cab Sec was not mistaken.

Audrey

Dr Audrey MacDougall FAcSS

Scottish Government Chief Social Researcher

Head of C-19 Analysis Division

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 06 January 2022 19:01

To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted

s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]**Subject:** RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi Audrey/ [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Just to say had a word with the journalist on this one and given the time she agreed to wait for a response till tomorrow, which is great for us as gives us a little longer to take a look at the info and if the Cab Sec was mistaken get a proper response drafted.

Will link back in with you all on this in the morning. Have a great night!

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 06 January 2022 18:38

To: MacDougall A (Audrey); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Thanks Audrey- we will need to go back to the BBC on this one tonight, given the question and that there is already something up online we will need to be sure the info is correct.

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: MacDougall A (Audrey)

Sent: 06 January 2022 18:14

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

I've asked [Redacted s38(1)(b)]to look at this again as it is not so clear from the publication. We'll get back to you asap.

Audrey

Dr Audrey MacDougall FAcSS

Scottish Government Chief Social Researcher

Head of C-19 Analysis Division

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 17:54
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]MacDougall A (Audrey)
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

[Redacted s30(b)(ii)]

For background info:

We broadly tracked the Worse scenario from the December 10th evidence paper but it only projected as far as December 20th. Since that publication we have published and continue to publish more up to date information (most recent from December 23rd here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic \(issue no.83\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus-(COVID-19):-modelling-the-epidemic-(issue-no-83)-gov.scot)).

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 17:51
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey)
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

We are due to publish a new version of our report tomorrow at 4pm, and still currently working on it. So to give it as additional info we would want to link it to what we are publishing tomorrow but we have not yet finished it.

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 17:48
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]MacDougall A (Audrey)
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk; [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Is there a reason we couldn't provide the info in background? Just conscious without it, we haven't answered the central question they asked?

Thanks,
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 17:30
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]MacDougall A (Audrey)
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Just to clarify the below is for context only and not to be shared with the journalist unless you want it to be included Audrey?

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]
From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 17:05
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; MacDougall A (Audrey)
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

For background info:

We broadly tracked the Worse scenario from the December 10th evidence paper but it only projected as far as December 20th. Since that publication we have published and continue to publish more up to date information (most recent from December 23rd here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): modelling the epidemic \(issue no.83\) - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)). [Redacted s30(b)(ii)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 16:58
To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]MacDougall A (Audrey)
Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk
Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Thanks for this. Apologies, I am probably being really daft, just wanted to check the actual question asked by the journalist on whether we are doing better than the worse case scenario projected in Dec 10- have we answered that central question? We do not need to necessarily provide any lines on this if info would suffice,

Thanks,
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]
From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]
Sent: 06 January 2022 16:55

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]MacDougall A (Audrey)

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hi [Redacted s38(1)(b)],

Draft below:

Scottish Government are due to publish updated modelling in issue no. 84 of the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19): modelling the epidemic in Scotland' publication on Friday 7th January. We will include medium term projections for hospitals and deaths for the next two weeks from SAGE and its sub groups, as well as the four weeks of infection data based on better, central and worse which was previously published before the festive season.

The Scottish Government uses a wide range of other data sources to inform our decisions informed by the consensus position of SAGE, and its sub groups. Details can be found at [List of participants of SAGE and related sub-groups - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-participants-of-sage-and-related-sub-groups).

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 06 January 2022 16:16

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey)

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)] Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk

Subject: RE: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hello,

Sorry to chase on a busy day but was just wondered if anyone had had a chance to look at the below, would be grateful for any info soonish if possible?

Thanks,

[Redacted s38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]

Sent: 06 January 2022 14:47

To: [Redacted s38(1)(b)] MacDougall A (Audrey)

Cc: [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Thomson KAL (Ken) (Director-General); Cooper P (Penelope); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]; Kleinberg D (Daniel); [Redacted s38(1)(b)]Chief Medical Officer; Director of Culture, Major Events and Covid Co-ordination; Communications Health & Social Care; News Desk

Subject: For policy views- media query- modelling worst case scenario? - BBC

Hello policy colleagues,

Just coming to you with a query from the BBC- they are looking for clarification around the modelling which was done around the various case scenarios and which projection we are currently following? They seem to think Cab Sec has referenced cases being in line with the worst case modelling however the modelling published would have us doing better than the central projection- are you able to provide any info around this?

Full query below for info

Thanks for your time there.

As discussed I've heard the health sec say a few times that cases are in line with worst case modelling scenarios. I think he's referring to the 10th Dec paper. But the modelling published a week later shows worst case projections of 130k cases a day. If I'm reading it correctly we're actually doing better than even the central projection? See bottom of page 2 and graphs around p15.

Happy to be corrected if I'm wrong but I am confused!

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2021/12/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-epidemic-issue-no-82/documents/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-epidemic-scotland-issue-no-82/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-epidemic-scotland-issue-no-82/govscot%3Adocument/coronavirus-covid-19-modelling-epidemic-scotland-issue-no-82.pdf>

Thanks,
[Redacted s38(1)(b)]