

ANNEX

Item 1

Extract from an internal SG email, July 2021:

Please see for information and awareness lines provided by the COVID policy team to respond to the query regarding SG alignment with UKG for future steps for dealing with covid-19.

[Text of query]

"Scottish Government's future steps for dealing with COVID-19 are going to be the same as the English Government's steps which were announced this evening by the Prime Minister"

The Strategic Framework <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-june-2021/> sets out how we will use and balance all the tools at our disposal to restore, over time, greater normality to our everyday lives. This includes:

- vaccination
- testing and contact tracing (Test and Protect)
- protective measures and the levels system
- travel restrictions to reduce the risk of new cases and strains coming into Scotland (importation measures)
- ensuring we all continue to follow the rules and guidance (adherence to measures)
- support for people and businesses

Throughout the pandemic, the decisions we have taken have been driven by evidence and clinical advice. We will continue to be driven by an approach that is informed by the data and consideration of the four harms <https://data.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/> as set out in our COVID19: Framework for Decision Making.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making/>

The Framework sets out as far as possible the conditions that we think need to be met, for us to start lifting restrictions, and provides a broad overview of the Scottish Government's priorities for reopening. We will continue to align our approach with the advice set out by the World Health Organisation.

We will continue to monitor case numbers and we are ready to adjust these plans should any evidence of a rise in cases occur. While there has been significant success in our progress tackling the virus, and the vaccination programme continues to roll out well across the country, it is clear that the virus is still with us and we must remain cautious.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 2

Extract from an email to Scottish Ministers from a correspondent, July 2021

Can you tell me if the Scottish Government's future steps for dealing with CoVid 19 are going to be the same as the English Government's steps which were announced this evening by the Prime Minister and if so does this mean that as the Prime Minister said "we will have to learn to live with this virus"?

If this is the case can I ask why you, the First Minister and the rest of the Scottish Government have not considered the use of Ivermectin, a cheap antiparasitic drug widely used for nearly 50 years, which has been proven to reduce the effects, and even kill, the SARS COVID-19 virus.

Ivermectin was used successfully in Mexico and in some states in India to drastically reduce the effects of the Covid-19 virus and reduce hospitalisation by more than 70% in some cases.

Can you tell me why you have not told the Scottish Public about the positive effectiveness of this exceptionally cheap drug? Is it perhaps that there is no profit to be gained by the shareholders of the large pharmaceutical companies who stand to make vast profits from alleged "new" drugs.

I look forward to a positive and constructive response to my enquiry.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 3

Extract from response to an FOI request from SG to correspondent, May 2021:

Your request

You asked for information in relation to communication both ways between the Scottish Government and Scottish Swimming on the following specific issue the case put to SG by Scottish Swimming for allowing competitive club swimmers whose 18th birthday fell within the lockdown period to return to training with the rest of their club squad on 26 April and all SG replies and explanations to Scottish Swimming of the rationale/reason for this not being allowed, and any mention/explanation in such communication of why the SG is taking a different position to the English Government on this very specific issue where in England said swimmers whose 18th birthday fell within the lockdown period are being allowed to return to training with their squads on the same date as the rest of their squads.

Response to your request

While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance the Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 4

Extract from a letter from SG to correspondent, August 2021:

Thank you for your request dated 03 August under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for:

1. The scientific peer reviewed paper/papers and/or studies which the Scottish Government base their use of face coverings to stop the spread of Covid-19.
2. The scientific data that proves that wearing ANY type of face covering reduces the spread of any and all respiratory viruses which specifically includes Covid-19 within a school setting.
3. As the Scottish government have continued the use of face coverings please supply the scientific reviewed analysis which the Scottish Government use versus any and all scientific evidence that the English Government have used when removing the use of face coverings.
4. The risk assessment for forcing school children of any age to wear a face covering during school hours.

We received your request on 4 August and will respond in accordance with FOISA as soon as possible, and not later than 31 August.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 5

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021

I have been trying to see daily updates or any other gov news but the BBC isn't broadcasting these meetings. How can I see these?

Is this legal? Or is it part of another country interfering in our democratic process? Is this is part of the ongoing BBC as a tool of the English government?

Which brings me to the question of, Why don't the English have their own parliament as Scotland, Wales and Ireland do? The Westminster building building can then be a UK parliament. If not, does it mean that the English government is the UK overlord?

Do the amounts of the government ministers pocket lining exceed our annual monies?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 6

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021

I am furious about the current tax rise and universal credit cuts which are being unfairly made by the English government.

I have contacted my local MP about this. But the MP is getting ignored by them. So local MPs can't do anything about this.

Boris is forcing this tax rise on us unnecessarily and without our consent. When we complain about it he just ignores us. This is not OK.

Boris Johnson has said he wants this money to fund the care home crisis. It's lies. Coronavirus already killed off a lot of older people so that would mean Boris doesn't have a care home crisis now. If you sit down and THINK about what he has said. There is no truth to it.

Also, I think he wants this money to fund Afghan refugees coming into the country. Again this is unfair and we shouldn't be paying for this. I also question the fact that he is a millionaire and he is asking poor people to pay for this. Again. Ask him to explain this.

Can someone question him about this or at least take him to court and get it done through the proper channels. This is not OK that he is getting away with murder. Quite literally he has got away with countless murders and will have more blood on his hands in the coming months if he continues to make these benefits cuts and tax rises.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 7

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021

Can you help ? I'm puzzled by data. Cases of coronavirus seem to have fallen but neither the Scottish or English government say whether there has been a significant drop in voluntary testing which would impact on the recorded figures. If case numbers of deaths are as high as they were in March (according to English reporting) and the number of cases has dropped does this not make the virus seem more deadly as fewer cases are now causing an increase in deaths?

I don't understand the information as given. Can you explain?

Kind Regards

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 8

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, March 2022

Hi can one of you please tell me why when Covid cases and deaths are rising dramatically that the Scottish Government are doing nothing about it. How many more people need to die or become infected before you act. Does the SNP really think there will be a positive vote on Independence when they are not acting on this surge again on Covid. It's just as well we are not an Independent Scotland as all the SNP can do is blame the English Government it's time the SNP took responsibility for the health and well-being of the Scottish people and focus on Covid instead of their own self interests.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 9

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021

I need advice on whether I shall fill in the passage locate form on the English Government website or the Scottish Government website.

I also checked out the Day 2 PCR test booking on CTM website, my reading is that I should specify that the entry port is London Heathrow but fill in my address in Scotland for the kit to be sent to. Can you please kindly confirm that my understanding is correct?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 10

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021

My current understanding is I need to quarantine for 10 days and complete testing on day 2 and 8. I've seen on the English government website that a private test to release is an option in order to leave quarantine early after 5 days.

I have work commitments when I return home and therefore, wanted to enquire whether test to release is an option for Scotland also?

I could not find any guidance online for this so clarification would be greatly appreciated.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 11

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100217931/>

Now that the English Government are allowing travellers from Green and Amber countries to use 'approved' testers for PCR tests when will Scottish Gov supply an extended list??

The company CTM have a monopoly on testing at a charge of £88. This charge itself may be enough to deter travellers to avoid PCR on arrival/ day 2 test. Also other companies are offering cheaper and faster testing.

Please pass this request to the correct department and an update of when this will change would be useful.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 12

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Can you confirm that Scotland accepts European residents that are double immunized against corona but with 2 different ones eg Astra zeneca and then Biotech.

I have read on the English government web page that they do not and they make this very clear but I have not read this on the Scottish government website.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 13

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Please could you therefore answer my two queries:

- when will my day 2 Covid PCR test be due?
- will it be the English government's guidance about the day 2 test that I should adhere to, since I will be in London?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 14

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

My question is what form of test must I get prior to flying home on 29 July?

I have read every available piece of documentation on the subject including that published by Scottish and English Government but it has just left me confused so I apologise for contacting you.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 15

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:

I have checked both the Scottish and English government websites, and I cannot find out if I have to fill in a passenger locator form, take COVID testing or lateral flow testing

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 16

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

I was so relieved to hear this morning that England had finally come to it's senses and was revoking the ridiculous rule that fully vaccinated travellers coming from Europe still had to quarantine for 10 days. This had made Britain the laughing stock of Europe as Britons were being allowed into European countries with their vaccination but were not reciprocating by allowing Europeans into the UK with exactly the same vaccinations....

My relief was quickly tempered as I have just read that the Scottish government is not following the sensible decision of the English government in this matter.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 17

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, June 2021:

I would like to enquire about what Covid test package I should choose for Day 2 and Day 8 testing. Should it be according to the English government or Scottish government?

Your help would be very much appreciated.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 18

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Hi Why on the Scottish government website when you click the link to get a pcr test provider that's not the original £68 provider does it take you to the English government website where their list of providers is only for people living in England.
Regards

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 19

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

The gov.scot website advises with regards to returning from a red list country "If you fly from abroad to an airport in England, you must quarantine in a hotel in England if you have travelled through a red list country during the 10 days before you arrive in England"

The gov.uk website advises with regards to seafarers returning from a red list country "You do not need to quarantine in a government approved hotel or take a COVID-19 test on day 2 and day 8, unless you are working on a cruise ship. If you live in the UK you do not need to quarantine."

So my questions regarding these statements above are;

If I arrive in England, do I follow English Government guidelines (rather than Scottish guidelines) whilst in England? *i.e. Scottish guidelines do not apply to me until I return to Scotland. As a UK seafarer and UK passport holder arriving in London, local English rules dictate that I do not need to quarantine in a government approved hotel since I will be returning to the UK to stay in England as a seafarer for 10 nights.*

As per Scottish guidelines, am I correct in saying that if I stay in England for 10 nights (therefore I will not be travelling to Scotland within 10 days of being in a red list country), that upon entering Scotland I will not be required to isolate in Scotland since the 10 day period has lapsed?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 20

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Please, please, please can someone help me.

I've managed to find a way to over complicate an already complicated situation!

We live in England, but we are flying from Scotland to go on holiday towards the end of next month.

Do we follow English Government travel guidelines or Scottish Government travel guidelines?

I've been told because we LIVE in England, and when we land back in Scotland, as the forms all have an English address, and we are going back home to England that we follow English rules (even though we are using a Scottish airport) But I really need some official answers as I'm getting so stressed! 😊

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 21

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

In addition, we find that the policy issued by the Scottish government is slightly different from that of the English government. If it is difficult for a flight stopping in Thailand to enter the UK from Scotland, can we choose to enter the UK from England and then take a special bus to Scotland without being required to gather in a hotel? These are the policies of the Scottish and English governments.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-quarantine/pages/red-amber-and-green-list-countries/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england#red-list>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules#aircraft-pilots-and-crew>

As we get closer to our departure date, a lot of students who are going to Scotland are feeling very worried. We would like to know if, as requested by the Scottish Government, this trip will require hotel quarantine rather than self-quarantine? The cost of hotel quarantine is too high for us students to afford.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 22

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, October 2021:

Can i just check whether there is a plan in place to change the day 2 return test from pcr to lateral flow in time for the end of october in line with the english government proposing to do this change in time for half-term?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 23

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

I live in England but flying from Edinburgh to Tenerife and back into Edinburgh. I'm confused as to whether I need to follow the Scottish guidelines or the English government guidelines. Once we have landed we will be travelling straight home

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 24

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

I sent a message yesterday about travelling to England and then onto Scotland.... Fingers crossed the English government will get back to me soon, travelling next Tuesday, I'm presuming they are very busy.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 25

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

I have recently watched your announcement on easing of COVID restrictions.

I was in the most simplest of terms, Utterly disappointed. In schools we are being told that we must social distance, wear masks and follow a one way system. However in other places of society these rules have been scrapped.

The English Government scrapped rules in schools back in May, So my first question is how does the scientific advice differ between Governments, Why are Governments taking different actions despite dealing with the same virus.

Another question is why is it a priority for the Scottish Government to open night clubs, open up pubs and other unnecessary places but not to remove the restrictions on childrens education. My education is more important than having a pint or going out dancing.

Assemblies are banned, But other mass gatherings are allowed. School discos BANNED, Night clubs open. School plays ALSO BANNED, Theatres are open. We are being told the explanation for this due to us not being vaccinated, We first of all how on earth do we help that consider we are NOT being offered the vaccine. We are also doing this to “protect others” but them other people we are trying to protect are ALREADY vaccinated.

I have supported your government so many times during this pandemic but my education matters. I hope you take into consideration my points and I hope you will get back to me.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 26

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, June 2021:

Thank you for eventual response after nearly 2 months!

I note that your standard email text is incorrect, in that the English government has extended the Workplace Collect scheme to 31 July, and we are fully using it.

I have read your response carefully and must register our extreme disappointment at the Scottish Government’s unwillingness to set up a Workplace Collect Scheme like the English and Welsh governments have. While we are already following all of the necessary COVID-19 requirements in our sites, the formalised Workplace Collect scheme with proper government information gives huge additional confidence to our guests at our Welsh and English sites, and now we cannot offer that same confidence by way of a formalised free test scheme in Scotland. If this impacts on guest numbers to Scotland, then not only does it impact our business but it also reduces tourist income into Scotland which is vital for the Scottish economy.

This is extremely short-sighted and I do not consider that the Scottish government is doing all it can to help employers during these unprecedented times.

I have noted that you will keep us on file should circumstances change, which we are grateful for.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 27

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, April 2022:

Hi, I've been told by my employer that sick pay for covid related absence is no longer being paid from day 1. I know the English government has changed this back to day 3. Is it the same here in Scotland

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 28**Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:**

I am emailing to enquire into any possible support/scholarship programmes for Scottish students to study abroad at postgraduate level. Online I have only really been able to find English Government sponsored programmes.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 29**Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, January 2022:**

I am planning to fly back to Scotland from Hong Kong next month, via London. So I will fly from Hong Kong to London, then on the same day, I will fly to Edinburgh. Then should I refer to the regulations of the Scottish government or the English government as the request for entering? Basically, the question comes down to - I would only need to do the Day 2 ocr test after back to Edinburgh right?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 30**Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:**

Hello Nicola. My theory test ran out at the end of April and i have been told that i must do it again. this is not fair as we were in lock down and i could not take my test. If Ireland can give an extension on this then so can the scottish government do the same for the poor people that have to do it again. I feel that you are just going along with what the English Government is doing and not giving us learner drivers a chance all you want is more money from us which is not fair. I did vote for you at the election and this is what i get told, not good enough. I am hoping that you will do the right thing and give extension on all theory tests , but i have my suspicion that you will not do anything about this matter.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 31**Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:**

I understand that English government does not recognise this as being fully vaccinated and we would have to quarantine upon arrival. Can you tell me if this is the same in Scotland and if not, will this change before our intended date of arrival,

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 32

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, November 2021:

I would like to bring the Aeromedical consulting to authorities' attention, as I have found out that our case was not an isolated incident. There are plenty of people complaining about the late arrival of tests. It seems that not dispatching orders in declared 24 hours is their usual practice.

I know that to deal with complaints about test providers is not your area of jurisdiction. I am only asking for the general direction, an email perhaps where I could address my concerns. Moreover, I am sure that the list of the Scottish government approved sellers is verified with more scrutiny than the English one. I was flying to Luton, so I used the English government website.

I would be grateful for your reply as I am unsure of the correct procedures of covid tests notification.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 33

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, June 2021:

I've sent this email on the 6th but the English government hasn't got back to me and I really need permission to isolate in my house

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 34

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Per the Scottish and English government website, if I had not been outside the UK in the previous 10 days then no additional testing etc would be required but since I would have been outside in the previous 10 days, what would be the procedure? Do I need to test before my flight to London, before the flight back to Scotland and a 2 day test when I get back to Scotland? Or would I be covered by the fact I had kept to all the requirements when entering Scotland in the first place from Canada? Additionally, can these be antigen tests or do they all need to be PCR tests?

Please let me know if you would rather have a call using a direct number, I used the general inquiry number and was directed to email as the best format.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 35

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

If returning to England there are 434 options for where to have your PCR test. In Scotland there seems to be only one. Most of these involve registering for a test to be posted to you, and returned to the lab for results. I do not understand why we can't use a company based in England rather than the Australian Scottish option which is often more expensive.

The English government is allowing tests through NHS at a capped price. Why can this not be done in Scotland?

And then France in September. Apparently we can't even go to a café because we don't have a digital vaccine certificate.

It does seem a handicap to be Scottish.

Can you give some guidance on our options?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 36

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

I am travelling home to Scotland for my leave in 2 weeks time. I will be traveling by car and the ferry docks in England. When I went to book the Scottish Gov tests I could only find airports of arrival. Should I work through this to book the tests or should I book an English government test. Grateful for your advice.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 37

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

I am flying to Scotland in few days, as I had two different vaccines (Astra Zeneca and Pfizer), I would like to know if I have to isolate for some days. I read that this new rule was introduced by the English Government but I don't know if it is valid all over Britain.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 38

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

I will be doing a Covid test on Monday morning in Glasgow before I travel. The Scottish Government website states to return to Scotland I need a negative test within 3 days of travel to Scotland but does not specify the country of origin of test. The English Government website states that a test taken in UK within the 3 days you can use this test result. Can you please confirm this is the same rule for Scotland?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 39

Extract from internal SG email, August 2021:

[Text of query]

3. As the Scottish government have continued the use of face coverings please supply **the scientific reviewed analysis** which the Scottish Government use versus any and all scientific evidence that the English Government have used when removing the use of face coverings.

Note that I will have to refer the requester to UKG for the second part of this question

Some evidence I believe might be useful for this question:

The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group members were supportive of the SAGE 87 paper "[EMG, SPI-M and SPI-B: Considerations in implementing long-term 'baseline' NPIs](#)", which discusses that the potential effectiveness of face coverings fall between medium to high effectiveness, as these can be a source of protection to the wearer and have the potential to mitigate all transmission routes. All papers from Sage 87, can be found [here](#).

On 14 June 2021, [WHO published interim guidance](#) on the approach that countries with advanced vaccination programmes should adopt to tackle Covid-19. WHO recommends the continued use of face coverings in areas of known community or cluster transmission. In summary:

*"Decision makers should apply a risk-based approach when considering the use of masks for the general public regardless of vaccination or natural immunity status. In areas of known or suspected community or cluster SARS-CoV-2 transmission: WHO advises that the general public should wear a non-medical mask in indoor (e.g., shops, shared workplaces, **schools**)".*

These areas of known transmission tend to have the following characteristics: close proximity with people from other households, settings where individuals stay for prolonged periods of time, high frequency of contacts, confined shared environments, poor ventilation, among others. More information can be found in the [publication on factors contributing to risk of transmission](#) from Public Health England.

[SAGE 86 highlighted](#) that studies have consistently shown that staff working in hospitality, retail and leisure sectors, especially those working at restaurants, bars and

pubs are at higher risk. [A transmission paper focused on the hospitality, retail and leisure sectors](#), discussed at SAGE 86, indicates that staff in leisure settings such as gyms and swimming pools are at greater risk than customers. [Public Health England](#) have also identified nursing homes, homeless shelters, prisons and ships, meat-packing plants and some factories as settings with the largest outbreaks across the world.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 40

Extract from FOI request to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

3. As the Scottish government have continued the use of face coverings please supply the scientific reviewed analysis which the Scottish Government use versus any and all scientific evidence that the English Government have used when removing the use of face coverings.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 41

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, January 2022:

I am completely disillusioned with the English government . I think they are a disgrace.

When Scotland becomes independent I wonder whether it will be possible for someone living in England to apply for Scottish citizenship.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 42

Extract from email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

I am furious about the current tax rise and universal credit cuts which are being unfairly made by the English government.

I have contacted my local MP about this. But the MP is getting ignored by them. So local MPs can't do anything about this.

Boris is forcing this tax rise on us unnecessarily and without our consent. When we complain about it he just ignores us. This is not OK.

Boris Johnson has said he wants this money to fund the care home crisis. It's lies. Coronavirus already killed off a lot of older people so that would mean boris doesn't have a care home crisis now. If you sit down and THINK about what he has said. There is no truth to it.

Also, I think he wants this money to fund Afghan refugees coming into the country. Again this is unfair and we shouldn't be paying for this. I also question the fact that he is a millionaire and he is asking poor people to pay for this. Again. Ask him to explain this.

Can someone question him about this or at least take him to court and get it done through the proper channels. This is not ok that he is getting away with murder. Quite literally he has got away with countless murders and will have more blood on his hands in the coming months if he continues to make these benefits cuts and tax rises.

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Item 43

Extract from email to Scottish Ministers from a correspondent, August 2021:

First, I have to express my awareness of how difficult it must be to be working as an MSP as well as carrying out the work of a cabinet minister and having a home-life as well.

I'll be brief about the Drugs Deaths issue.

I hope you will declare it as a "Health Emergency", which I think would have at least three specific benefits:

First, the government would be seen to be doing something.

Second, Drug-users and their families might benefit before long

Third, the Scottish government would be seen to be standing-up to the Westminster English Government, which I think will have been pleased to see the tragic figures for drug-related deaths here despite the apparent similarity in current policies throughout the UK.

The attached article by Dani Garavelli seems to include some interesting ideas and information, and I expect staff in the NHS and people involved with voluntary organisations will have their own views which can be considered and advised on by your colleagues and staff.

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/health/2021/07/how-will-snp-solve-scotland-s-tragic-drugs-crisis>

I have to hope that the new Lord Advocate has more humanity and humility than was displayed by the previous holder of that post.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 44

Extract from email to SG (via an MSP) from a correspondent, June 2021:

As far as I'm aware the English government has banned mask use in schools because it never had a safety study. There was a push from a group "us 4 them", that wrote to Boris Johnson.

So does Scotland have a safety study that shows it is safe for children in secondary schools to wear masks all day at school?

If it does I would love to read it.

If it doesn't then that is highly problematic for the Scottish government.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 45

Extract from an email to Scottish Ministers from a correspondent, July 2021:

Just read your statement on the wearing of face masks in Scotland.

I am wondering where you have received evidence that face masks have any effect on stopping the transfer of airborne viruses.

Having searched for this evidence I have found NO proof of this.

Could you please produce evidence for me and the whole Scottish population so we can have full confidence in your decision.

Note- we are using a 4 nation approach on most decisions regarding Covid.

I demand you follow the English government on the wearing of these dirty masks.

STOP THE MASKS NOW. Regards

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 46

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, January 2022:

As my representative, I do hope that you would consider addressing this crucial gap in service provision. If the (English) Government can afford expensive cheese and wine (and potentially cake) for every work meeting, then the budget can definitely find funds to set up a specialist centre for victims and survivors within Edinburgh city, rather than forcing distressed and vulnerable people to travel a long distance to a place they do not know.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 47

Extract from an email to SG (via FM) from a correspondent, January 2022:

I understand that you will be busy in the election campaign but unfortunately this is an issue that cannot wait.

As we Muslim are going through the holiest days of our year while we are hear the disturbing news of ongoing carnage caused by the actions of Israeli forces. Just recently HRW came up with its assessment as how Israel has practically put Palestinians in apartheid.

(<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>)

As if to prove a point, since then Israel has escalated the evictions of Palestinians from their homes and last night they unleashed yet another carnage by attacking one of the holiest mosques in Islam in its holiest days.

I note with disappointment and anger almost radio silence on this from SNP. I do understand this is the domain of the English Government but as someone living in Scotland I would like to know what Scotland thinks and does about it.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 48

Email to Scottish Ministers from a correspondent, June 2021

Dear Mr Macpherson,

Please accept my apologies for this unsolicited email, but let me introduce myself I am an SNP councillor Highland Council ward 9 Black Isle this is the link to my contact details on the Highland Council website https://www.highland.gov.uk/councillors/44/craig_fraser. I am contacting you in your new position as the SG Cabinet Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment. In my capacity as Highland Council species champion for the 'Solitary bee' I take a keen interest on environmental threats to this species, in particular indiscriminate use of pesticides including neonics. I am aware of the SG 10 year pollinator strategy which I welcome, this is the reason that I have contacted you. I am extremely concerned that if the SG has strong environmental protections these could/may/will be over-ridden by the English government in Westminster by use of the IMA under the control of the HSE and DEFRA.

If you read the email string from the bottom up you will see what has prompted my concern, I have also written various environmental NGO's who have equal concern that our hard won environmental protections will be rolled back.

The SG cannot allow this to happen, so I would be grateful for your thoughts.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 49

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, April 2022:

I tried to get 1 kit for my wife and I got a knock back. I have been informed the English government have controlled the distribution of test kits in Scotland, where I believed that we had the power of our own health service, and the free of charge allowance for such items. As it so happens our family next door to us have an outbreak, and we may have been exposed to this. The allowance of only 1 kit is inadequate for my wife and myself, and feel it unjust that another government is controlling our health service. Kindest Regards

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 50

Extract from an email to SG (via FM) from a correspondent, August 2021:

Vaccines do not offer 100% protection and it is inevitable that some young people will face the avoidable death of a parent as a result of this decision. This is not a trivial consequence.

The mealy mouthed concession to offer the vaccine to those with a very specific and limited list of conditions or living with someone "immunocompromised" is grossly inadequate as well as ambiguous, will exclude many in great need and does not solve the problem for the vast majority.

Since the pandemic began, the English government have repeatedly underestimated and minimised this disease. Every single time they have erred on the side of recklessness, they have been forced to correct in the direction of caution, and it is likely this will also occur with making the vaccine available to young people.

Decisions such as failing to lock down, abandoning community testing in early March 2020 and advice that masks were useless have all been subsequently revealed to have been driven by economic or resource constraints rather than scientific evidence or public health concern, and I suspect the plan to deny vaccination to under 18s is also at least in part motivated by short term cost savings.

There has quite rightly been a lot of concern about mandatory vaccination by the back door in terms of unvaccinated people not being able to access services or places which is ethically questionable; I would argue that the state dictating that my child can have no access to vaccination at all is just as great an abuse of power, since both scenarios deprive the individuals concerned of autonomy over their health choices.

I ask you to consider the fundamental human rights issue of young people being denied vaccination yet at the same time forced to go to crowded, poorly ventilated schools where the risk of becoming infected is high, as in reality very few families are in a position to home educate in the longer term.

Millions of doses of this exceptionally safe and rigorously tested vaccine have been used worldwide – the vaccine is not the experiment here, rather the English government’s policy of promoting the rampant spread of covid among our youth in pursuit of natural herd immunity is, and this is being done without the consent of those being exposed.

Permitting high levels of endemic infection to circulate among adolescents also significantly increases the likelihood of potentially vaccine-evading mutations to arise which is in no one’s interests, young or old.

Please also consider the multiple opinion polls showing the majority of parents would like their children to be vaccinated – this was as high as 90% in one Office for National Statistics study earlier this summer, yet we are given no voice and no choice.

In wider terms, whilst the government becomes increasingly desperate and heavy handed in coercing a minority of over 18’s who do not want the vaccine to take it, an equal if not higher population coverage could be easily achieved by making vaccination available to under 18’s as would occur if every single adult took the vaccine.

Our young people and their futures are far too important to get this wrong.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 51

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent quoting feedback, September 2021:

“Oh but in England...” is a common one I get from tourists. It should be made more clear and apparent from the English government, that if you plan to travel especially to Scotland, they must abide the restrictions within that country and make themselves aware of it.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 52

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

I have spoken to the English passenger locator helpline who advised me that entering Greenock will be considered re entering the U.K. and should be treated as such so passenger locator forms should be done during the two sea days between France and Scotland although passengers will not have phone or internet signal unless they have bought a specific package onboard to do this. They also said that we should be getting pcr tests done onboard two days after entering Greenock in line with the rules (we will be in Belfast by this day). However the cruise company are trying to make out that it is only the arrival into Southampton at the end of the cruise which counts as re-entering the U.K. and are therefore telling people to do the

passenger locator before getting off in Southampton at the end and ordering and paying for PCR tests to be done two days after getting home which I don't think is right from what the English government helpline have said.

Please can you clarify this for me as it is very confusing to try and work out.

Thanks

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 53

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, June 2021:

I've sent this email on the 6th but the English government hasn't got back to me and I really need permission to isolate in my house

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 54

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

The English government prescribes for EU travelers quarantine restrictions when they vaccinated with mixed Covis-19 Jabs.

I have two vaccinations with Astra-Zeneca but my wife has a mixed vaccination with Astra and Pfizer. So we can not drive from Newcastle to Edinburgh. What is the current position of this problem?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 55

Extract from an email to SG (via FM) from a correspondent, March 2022:

how long are we going to have to put up with Celtic fans constantly singing about the IRA. "Oh ah up the RA" could be heard throughout the game tonight yet not one person in the media has the balls to mention it. I have just read that the English Government have told Chelsea fans to stop singing Roman Abramovichs name yet your Government do nothing about this. We need to put a stop to this once and for all as it is embarrassing to our Country & clearly Celtic Football Club aren't doing anything about it. I look forward to hearing from you.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 56

Extract from an email to Scottish Ministers from a correspondent, March 2022:

Hi can one of you please tell me why when Covid cases and deaths are rising dramatically that the Scottish Government are doing nothing about it. How many more people need to die or become infected before you act. Does the SNP really think there will be a positive vote on Independence when they are not acting on this surge again on Covid. It's just as well we are not an Independent Scotland as all the SNP can do is blame the English Government it's time the SNP took responsibility for the health and well-being of the Scottish people and focus on Covid instead of their own self interests.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 57

Extract from an email to SG (via FM) from a correspondent, May 2021:

First Minister I write with regard to your Justice Minister Humza Yousaf and his recent atrocious behaviour on 14th May, 2021 in Kenmure Street during the irresponsible action of hundreds of people, stopping a legitimate removal of two men, believed to have overstayed their visa by several years.

The irresponsible actions of Humza Yousaf, shocked me as his role is suppose to enforce laws and certainly not encourage people to gather, during a Coronavirus crisis, made a million times worse by the fact that area, your constituency, had been identified as having the new Indian Variant. You had declared Glasgow would not move from level 3 to level 2 of Coronavirus rules. However, here we have your Justice Minister, on a loudspeaker, calling the Home Office and the Tory Government "racists" and encouraging protestors to ensure these men could not be removed. The scenes of hundreds of people sitting on roads, mixing with no social distancing, some without masks, was frankly shocking. Yousaf did nothing to encourage the crowds to disperse, despite having a loudspeaker. He was happy to incite them even further by his derogatory comments to the crowds about the English Government. You and your Party are obviously very anti England, the English and of course the Tory Government. However, for one of your Minister to be so vocal at a time of enhanced concern, in your constituency, it was even more incredible that you, as MSP for the area, First Minister of Scotland did not at any time condemn the gathering, instruct the protestors to disperse, or inform your Justice Secretary, he could actually be breaking the law, by refusing to comply with a Parliamentary Instruction from the Home Office.

Then on the Saturday your Justice Minister, is "appalled by the action of Rangers fans gathering during a Pandemic"! I think even for him, that was a step too far. What right had he to be so adamant about his views on the Rangers fans, when the previous day, he had stood in a large crowd and did not ask one person to move and in fact floated about defying the English Parliament. I am not a football fan and think the Rangers fans actions were horrendous, however, your Justice Minister did himself or your Party any favours and in fact made people so angry and shocked by

his hypocritical comments on Saturday. A Justice Minister, I think people would expect, should be complying with all the laws and indeed guidelines on a Pandemic, which has killed so many citizens and caused so much havoc to people's . His actions need to be condemned by you and indeed you need to make a public apology to the people of Scotland for these two blatant degradation of his duty and your duty to speak to him on the Friday and instruct him, as he was not doing his duty, to have the people disperse. Yousaf wanted lots of publicity as he just loves having his name in the media, however, his job is to comply with laws, not break them when it suits him.

Your role as First Minister, and leader of the SNP is to ensure your members and Ministers, who you appointed, carry out their duties whilst comply with laws and guidelines which apply to a Pandemic. You have failed on both counts and believe me a lot of Scottish people are extremely angry at the Friday incident. Yes Glasgow is a welcoming city, one I am pleased to call home, however, the majority of people are concerned about illegal migrants and how they cause many issues in the areas they inhabit. Migrants who arrive through the legal scheme, are of course welcome, as they have been vetted and are expected and therefore, can be supported. Illegal migrants are not welcome and just because these men had overstayed their visa, does not mean they can stay. They had appeals which were refused. The lawyer of one man said he had his own accommodation, well people would like to know who pays for that, how does he survive for 5 years if not allowed to work? One of many illegal migrants and people of Scotland do want them removed, as otherwise you are just encouraging more to come and work in a "black market" which does not contribute anything to our country. The country needs genuine refugees families or migrants who have applied thorough the legal system. Hundreds of single men arriving, overstaying their visas, being refused the right to stay, making several appeals keeping them in the country, is not acceptable to the majority of people in this country. The woman you admire, Mrs Merkel said several weeks ago " the majority of migrants are economy migrants, not fleeing conflict." I, for one, was surprised it took her so long to come to that conclusion when we knew within months of her welcoming "all migrants are welcome to EU". Instead of saying "Syrian migrants" as it was at start of the Syrian crisis. Even Barnier is now saying he believe EU borders need to be closed. If a country has enough room/infrastructure/jobs/housing and can ensure migrants do not settle in one area, as has happened in the past and left us now with entire Cities/towns were British born are no longer the main residents, then of course take in more. However, as everyone knows Scotland and the rest of U.K. does not have everything needed to settle many more migrants, as there major issues in many Scottish towns/ cities with appalling housing, over crowded schools, lack of GPs/Dentists in areas, over crowded hospitals and of course lack of jobs. Everyone wants to be kind and help people however, when your town/city becomes overcrowded and people want to change your history and street names, then it becomes unacceptable. I hope you will take note on my comments about Humza Yousaf and also make an apology to the people in Your constituency and indeed Glasgow for your lack of proper management of the situation. There will no doubt be many more cases of Indian Variant appearing in Glasgow and other surrounding areas, as all the people protesting. would disperse to who knows where?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 58

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, December 2021:

I am writing to you with reference to the enormous scandal our Government has caused relating to the usage of Chinese Lateral Flow tests. To date they have purchased over £3 Billion of the Innova test, ironically made in Wuhan, China, that have been found to be extremely **inaccurate**, to a point the USA FDA have withdrawn them from the US market.

I am sure you are no doubt aware of Omega Diagnostics, based in Alva, who were granted a £374 million contract by the Government, and lent £17 million of machinery, only for the contract to be 'run down' with not one single test supplied. Colin King - CEO - and his team have increased their facility space and capacity, increased their workforce, from circa 70 to 250, in preparation for the growth that has never come to fruition.

The Later Flow Test Omega manufacture is one of the 'Best in Class' with an accuracy of over 98%. They have capacity now to manufacture 2 million devices a week. They are experiencing long delays in receiving 'self test' approvals, of which there is little doubt the product should not pass.

Now the English Government are requesting that Omega pay back a loan of £2.5 million, whilst still the £17 million of loaned machinery is sitting idle in Alva.

My point of writing to you is to ask for some encouragement from the Scottish Government to ignore this corrupt English Government and use home grown quality products. I understand your demands to the nation to consistently use these tests on a daily basis, so why not use Omegas?

I trust you understand my concerns and my request.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 59

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Listening to the news from the English government and that facemasks, hand washing and social distancing are to be personal choice fills me with dread and fear.

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Item 60

Extract from an email to SG (via FM) from a correspondent, September 2021

I am contacting you with a plea for help please. You are probably aware of an alpaca named Geronimo who's owner had been fighting the government/defra re the proven flawed testing for TB. They then went to seize poor little Geronimo - a healthy happy alpaca & caused him huge distress & handling which was abhorrent & abusive. All along the English government - George Eustice/Defra, Boris Johnson refused to listen or communicate with the owner & all the experts (times like this Im especially glad I live in Scotland!)

I, as have many have put in formal complaints about their testing system which has now been highlighted globally but has always been something they have been aware of & the handling of the case & the abuse that poor animal endured during its final moments.

Would you please be able to raise the issues internally on the TB testing & the handling & put pressure on those involved to admit their wrong, apologise & resign & press them for change to ensure this does not ever happen to any animal ever again. The scenes of that poor animals last moments are something that will haunt me for a very very long time & it all couldve been so easily resolved in another way. If you require any further details I am happy to provide them.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 61

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

I am unsure of whom I should be addressing this e-mail to however as a Scottish resident I feel I should voice my personal thoughts at this time.

I've been lucky enough throughout this pandemic to hold a job and receive a regular salary. I have followed the rules, staying at home/staying away from loved ones/wearing a mask/washing hands etc. Working throughout and missing on holidays booked throughout last year and into this year. I finally thought we had it sorted when after cancelling our trip to Barbados we booked a local cruise from Greenock for 1 week to hopefully get a chance to get away and relax.

How typical it is then that we've just been informed that the government continue to refuse to let the cruise ship enter Scotland however keep preaching about staying close to home and having staycations. It is unfortunate how it appears to be 'one rule for one and one rule for another'.

For months we have seen the preparation and quite frankly lack of control over the travel and attendance for football – it's astonishing only football and tennis appear to be given the free for all across the country but then firm rules are put in place for people who have no interest flying or driving with hoards of fans spreading COVID like wild fire.

It felt like there may be some element of movement all be it one extreme to another with the English government taking the decision for a free for all from the 19th July. At least that's fair for everyone although I understand and feel trepidation on what this will mean to the UK and it's vulnerable people.

The Scottish government in my opinion has made very difficult decisions in the best interests of it's residents over this long 15+ months but seem to have now completely lost the plot and the decisions have no rational justification.

It is ok for thousands of football fans to travel and congregate however it is not ok for a cruise ship with strict rules and guidelines to enter Greenock to take passengers on a tour of the UK

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 62

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

Can I use another provider? Scottish Universities give choices for international travel and the English government gives options too for example Boots, Radox or Eurofins.

Why in Scotland do we have one option and costly, seems unfair and just wanted to ask what I can use? Is this mandatory?

Thanks for all your help and look forward to your reply. I would assume as long as my test is negative does it matter on the provider and also proof that I have this ordered.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 63

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:

I am a little confused with what is exactly needed when I arrive. I am having a test on the day before I travel and my father has ordered self-test from the Scottish government. I tried to complete the passenger locator form but it won't let me do so until 48 hours before. It mentions that I need to have 2 test dates set up but it appears that Scottish government, being so much more sensible than the English government prefer home test. I am not sure if the organized test centers apply to Scotland.

Your guidance would be much appreciated as I am unable to book these tests if I complete 48 hours before travel as 24 of these hours I will be traveling and we have that 7 hour time difference. I can also ask my father for the email confirmation of the tests.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 64

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Following on from my email below, I see that the Scottish Government page (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-quarantine/>) has now been updated:

When I click on the link from that page that states "PCR test on or before day 2", it takes me to a UK Government page that only talks about England (nothing mentioned about Scotland at all). On that page, I can then see that Halo is approved by the English Government to be used for Day 2 test. Please could you therefore confirm if I can book this for my Day 2 test in Scotland (and confirm the booking number on my passenger locator form 48 hrs before I travel - instead of having to book a PCR through the CTM portal).

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 65

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent:

My purpose in drawing this to your attention is simply that this demonstrates a level of active connectedness between Cefas and the major English aquaculture research institutes, in a practical, and tangible way. It also demonstrates Cefas is actively seeking new funding opportunities in collaboration with other research institutes, and to advance (English) Government policy e.g. around the English Aquaculture Strategy (known as 'Seafood 2040').

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 66

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Can you confirm that Scotland accepts European residents that are double immunized against corona but with 2 different ones eg Astra zeneca and then Biotech.

I have read on the English government web page that they do not and they make this very clear but I have not read this on the Scottish government website.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 67

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:

What really makes myself angry is England has 83 long COVID centres and Scotland has none, you can't tell me that the English government wouldn't open these centres at a cost if they knew there wasn't an issue, the Scottish government needs to take action and spend the money the uk government has given them and you should be pushing for this to happen, it feels like we are completely alone in dealing with this situation and every time we phone the reception staff at the doctors we feel we are a inconvenience to them, Doctors are general practice and not specialists, Please don't come back with waffle we need action thx

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 68

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, January 2022:

But can you please advise if the Scottish Government like the English government are making it compulsory for Face-to-Face workers in the NHS and their CQC equivalent to have their covid Vaccines.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 69

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

So the Scottish Government wants to keep masks. At least the English government is seeing sense where it should be personal choice to wear something that doesn't work anyway in normal day-to-day life.

Masks

New research published in JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) has found that wearing a face mask causes children to inhale dangerous levels of carbon dioxide that becomes trapped behind the mask.

The peer-reviewed research letter from Dr Harald Walach and colleagues found that the air masked children inhaled contained more than six times the legal safe limit for closed rooms as set down by the German Federal Environmental Office. The safe limit is 0.2%, whereas the air the masked children inhaled contained over 1.3% carbon dioxide.

The effect was worse for younger children, with one seven-year-old child inhaling air with 2.5% carbon dioxide, over 12 times the safe limit.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2781743>

Jason Leitch said in 2020 "Professor Leitch was also asked to clarify the efficacy of face masks when combating the spread of the virus.

He responded: "Masks are useful if you have the disease and useful for health care workers who are working with people who have the disease but global evidence shows that masks in the general population don't work.

"This virus is not airborne - has to be spread by droplets. If this was in the air, the instructions would be very different."

What has changed - nothing, he was right then and still is. **What data is being used to determine the efficacy of masks?** Please provide it!

Masks are Good for the Environment

The study, "[An investigation into the leaching of micro and nanoparticles and chemical pollutants from disposable face masks – linked to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)", investigated the impact of disposable plastic facemasks (DPFs) on the environment by submerging masks from seven different manufacturers in water then testing the water for chemicals. The researchers found lead, cadmium, [antimony](#), and various plastic and organic substances in the water. They expressed concerns about the contribution disposable face masks are making to the world's plastic problem.

Single-use face masks have been [termed](#) the 'new plastic bags', and are bound to be the cause of a great amount of damage to ecosystems across the world due to the large quantity being used (with [threats of fines for non-wearers](#)). Last August, the Mail [reported](#) that "124,000 tons of unrecyclable masks – the equivalent weight of 10,000 London buses – could be dumped each year", Does the disposal of masks contradict the SNP environment policy - "We are committed to reducing single-use plastic waste" no your not!

Anything Else you Need to Know about Face Masks

[Surgical, Cotton Masks Equally Ineffective in Blocking COVID-19 Spread, Say Investigators](#)

Surgical and cotton masks are both ineffective when it comes to blocking droplets of the virus SARS-CoV-2 that may be generated when somebody coughs, according to investigators with the Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea. Their research letter, published yesterday in the Annals of Internal Medicine, compared the 2 types of masks. Four patients coughed 5 times each into a petri dish while wearing no mask. They then coughed five times wearing a surgical mask, a cotton mask, and then, again, wearing no mask. The study, conducted at two hospitals in Seoul, found that when patients coughed into either type of mask, droplets of SARS-CoV-2 were released into the environment.

A very recent review of the literature that was published in the CDC journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases* did not find evidence that masks (or hand-washing) were

protective against influenza. Masks did not help infected people reduce their risk of infecting others, nor reduce the risk of uninfected people contracting influenza: The WHO has stated that is no benefit to healthy people wearing masks in public, and there is only limited evidence that masks help when in contact with a sick person:

There is limited evidence that wearing a medical mask by healthy individuals in the households or among contacts of a sick patient, or among attendees of mass gatherings may be beneficial as a preventive measure. However, there is currently no evidence that wearing a mask (whether medical or other types) by healthy persons in the wider community setting, including universal community masking, can prevent them from infection with respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

The University of Minnesota Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) does not recommend that the public wears masks, because they do not work, they may reduce other preventive measures, and they risk the supply of masks for healthcare workers:

We do not recommend requiring the general public who do not have symptoms of COVID-19-like illness to routinely wear cloth or surgical masks because: There is no scientific evidence they are effective in reducing the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission Their use may result in those wearing the masks to relax other distancing efforts because they have a sense of protection. We need to preserve the supply of surgical masks for at-risk healthcare workers.

Brosseau LM et al., "[COMMENTARY: Masks-for-all for COVID-19 not based on sound data](#)", CIDRAP, April 1st 2020.

Experts from the Chicago School of Public Health do not recommend that the general public wear masks, for similar reasons to CIDRAP:

We do not recommend requiring the general public who do not have symptoms of COVID-19-like illness to routinely wear cloth or surgical masks because: (1) There is no scientific evidence they are effective in reducing the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. (2) Their use may result in those wearing the masks to relax other distancing efforts because they have a sense of protection. (3) We need to preserve the supply of surgical masks for at-risk healthcare workers.

What is the point of the vaccine? Who in Holyrood is a vaccine sceptic? Who figures out the science. So there we have it Freedom in England, Where is William Wallace when you need him!

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 70

Extract from an email to Scottish Ministers from a correspondent, November 2021:

Sadly the English government has chosen to cancel the order for an alternative and arguably safer Covid-19 vaccine from Valneva. Unfortunately I am one of the growing number of professional health care workers who have experienced an adverse reaction to the existing vaccine thus making the risks enhanced in receiving further doses.

I am very keen to obtain the vaccine which has reportedly become approved within the E.U (excellent news for both Livingston and Europe) and wish you and the Scottish government all best wishes in reversing the London centric English government decision.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 71

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent

They have released that all covid vaccines (boosters included) are mandatory to work for them since English government brought this into effect.

As far as I am aware Scottish government have not made this mandatory and are still allowing their people the freedom of choice in this matter.

This leads me to believe that an English company think they are above Scottish law as the care home is situated firmly within Scottish soil.

I am requesting an update on whether this is permitted or not.... or whether you are aware that your citizens jobs are been threatened by a company trying to enforce English law upon Scotland.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 72

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, January 2022:

urge you to reject the recent JCVI advice and protect our young people now rather than waiting for England to U-turn on the provision of the safe and licenced covid vaccine to this age group.

The JCVI, among whose members opinions are far from unanimous, includes virtually nobody from the demographics most affected by covid, and it is clear their current decision, which is at odds with the rest of the developed world, has been taken through a very narrow lens looking at outcomes of severe acute illness and deaths only, whilst failing to take a holistic view of young people's welfare.

The assertion that the individual benefit to people under 18 is not worthwhile neglects to consider the increasingly evident harms from long covid as well as the psychological harm of being denied the protection for themselves and their families from the vaccine. Young people may not die, but those developing long covid or other complications have decades longer to live with the sequelae of infection than adults.

This position by the JCVI holds even less credibility given it was revealed just days after the announcement of an enhanced flu vaccine drive this year to include secondary age children, which also at a numerical level offers little to no reduction in severe disease or death to individual recipients in this age group. Influenza is many times less transmissible and less deadly than covid, and does not tend to leave significant numbers of previously healthy young people with protracted illness.

For the many youngsters like my son living in households with someone vulnerable, they face the cruel choice between going to school and protecting their relative. Vaccines do not offer 100% protection and it is inevitable that some young people will face the avoidable death of a parent as a result of this decision. This is not a trivial consequence.

The mealy mouthed concession to offer the vaccine to those with a very specific and limited list of conditions or living with someone “immunocompromised” is grossly inadequate as well as ambiguous, will exclude many in great need and does not solve the problem for the vast majority.

Since the pandemic began, the English government have repeatedly underestimated and minimised this disease. Every single time they have erred on the side of recklessness, they have been forced to correct in the direction of caution, and it is likely this will also occur with making the vaccine available to young people.

Decisions such as failing to lock down, abandoning community testing in early March 2020 and advice that masks were useless have all been subsequently revealed to have been driven by economic or resource constraints rather than scientific evidence or public health concern, and I suspect the plan to deny vaccination to under 18s is also at least in part motivated by short term cost savings.

There has quite rightly been a lot of concern about mandatory vaccination by the back door in terms of unvaccinated people not being able to access services or places which is ethically questionable; I would argue that the state dictating that my child can have no access to vaccination at all is just as great an abuse of power, since both scenarios deprive the individuals concerned of autonomy over their health choices.

I ask you to consider the fundamental human rights issue of young people being denied vaccination yet at the same time forced to go to crowded, poorly ventilated schools where the risk of becoming infected is high, as in reality very few families are in a position to home educate in the longer term.

Millions of doses of this exceptionally safe and rigorously tested vaccine have been used worldwide – the vaccine is not the experiment here, rather the English

government's policy of promoting the rampant spread of covid among our youth in pursuit of natural herd immunity is, and this is being done without the consent of those being exposed.

Permitting high levels of endemic infection to circulate among adolescents also significantly increases the likelihood of potentially vaccine-evading mutations to arise which is in no one's interests, young or old.

Please also consider the multiple opinion polls showing the majority of parents would like their children to be vaccinated – this was as high as 90% in one Office for National Statistics study earlier this summer, yet we are given no voice and no choice.

In wider terms, whilst the government becomes increasingly desperate and heavy handed in coercing a minority of over 18's who do not want the vaccine to take it, an equal if not higher population coverage could be easily achieved by making vaccination available to under 18's as would occur if every single adult took the vaccine.

Our young people and their futures are far too important to get this wrong.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 73

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:

We are aware that although they have not been invited to phone the vaccination service, a few people in their early thirties have and what further heightens our dismay is the fact that the English government has already invited people in their thirties to phone to make a vaccination appointment. Our son's current position is made all the more concerning because his wife is

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 74

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, October 2021:

I am talking about the £500 million the English government gave you to support people who are struggling? Where is it?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 75

Extract from a web query to SG from a correspondent, November 2021:

Good afternoon. I would be grateful if you could please clarify some information in relation to disability benefit for under 18's. I know that there is no face-to-face assessments for under 18's but can you please tell me what legislation this is set out in and when it was enacted? Also, when the Scottish Government informed the English Government to cease such assessments.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 76

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Hi you've not really helped me it's still £170 why should I need to prove myself after 7 negative tests it's all far wrong the government is robbing the working man again , my civil rights are being breached & my Scottish government send me what I already no its a scandal I'll send photos off tests it's disgusting the Scottish n English government are doing

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 77

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:

Thank you very for your detailed reply and for taking the time to answer my mail, I appreciate how busy you must be.

I truly understand some of the reasoning behind certain decisions, and as someone who spends an exorbitant amount of time studying the latest updates on various aspects of the pandemic on a daily basis, I am particularly aware of the new variants threat.

New variants developing is something that will be there for as long as Covid exists, such is the nature of the virus.

My argument however would be that Scotland and Wales should be more concerned about the presence of the new variants currently rising at an alarming rate in England, where very little has been done by the English government to stop the spread, instead of implementing immediate localized lockdowns in the areas affected, as seen implemented in Scotland, they are putting the responsibility (and eventual blame) on the citizens of those areas to get vaccinated asap. England has also been continuing to allow a very large number of flights from Red List countries to land at London airports.

There is also the case that not everyone is adhering to the Level 3 restrictions in for example Glasgow, I have a friend back home in Inverness who works in a bar, yesterday she refused entry to a bunch of lads from Glasgow who had travelled up to the Highlands yesterday!

England currently has the highest rate of the Indian Variant in the whole of Europe! Honestly, the Downing Street attitude towards some of the EU countries on the amber list is beginning to have a whiff of Brexit about it and I think the EU would welcome Scotland taking a different more open approach to certain countries compared to that of the lying fools in Westminster.

Today's numbers from Germany: 7-day incident rate is 67,3 and R number is at 0,82, rate of new infections is falling steadily.

1. Yesterday the First Minister announced that Scottish citizens would be able to download a proof of vaccination document to be used for international travel if required by the country of destination.
2. Today Ireland has announced something similar in order to allow Irish citizens to travel quarantine free within the EU by June.
3. Spain today announced that citizens from the UK can travel there from next Monday (24.05.21) without having to go into quarantine upon arrival.

Various scientists and experts are saying that the vaccines are effective against the new variants.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 78

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

Please could you therefore answer my two queries:

- when will my day 2 Covid PCR test be due?
- will it be the English government's guidance about the day 2 test that I should adhere to, since I will be in London?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 79

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021:

I thought because I am only transiting through the airport and my final destination is Edinburgh that it would be the same as me transiting through any other airport. Please can you check this as on the government website, it states final destination. Having spoken with the English government before being signposted to yourselves, they informed me that they are only using Heathrow Airport for people flying to

England as a final destination for managed quarantine as I was willing to fly into Manchester or Newcastle but they told me I'd be aswell flying into Edinburgh and contacting yourselves to sort the exemption.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 80

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, May 2021

I'm looking for clarification on PCR tests for international travel and hoping you can assist?

My airline offers me a reduced rate on the day 2 test I will require on my return however the Scot Gov website provides only a link to a single provider for £88 per test. Please can you clarify that I must use only this provider for my day 2 test and confirm that results from other RT-PCR test providers are not accepted?

The English government website is currently offering a vast range of testing options with varying prices and thought I might have the same flexibility of choice.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 81

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

I have spoken to the English Government office and understand that we have to test before leaving the US, get a test on our second day in England and will then face no requirements or quarantine restrictions.

I have however been unable to establish if there are any additional requirements that we will face visiting Scotland.

Could you please clarify this for me – or alternatively let me have a phone number where I can talk to someone who has full knowledge of the rules.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 82

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

Thank you for the reply.

But just for clarification the Scottish Government will accept the EU Covid pass...EVEN if you have had 2 doses with 2 different vaccine makes. Apparent the English government DON`T accept this.

You can imagine that the last thing we want is to get to Scotland and somebody says you have to quarantine !!

Look forward to your clarification.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 83

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, October 2021:

Thank you for your email.

Do we know when or if the Scottish Government will announce relaxation of the day 2 PCR tests with a Lateral Flow test, like the English Government starting on the 24th October?

We kind of need to know as we need to book tests this week with travelling on the 24th and returning on the 31st.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 84

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Following on from my email below, I see that the Scottish Government page (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-quarantine/>) has now been updated:

When I click on the link from that page that states "PCR test on or before day 2", it takes me to a UK Government page that only talks about England (nothing mentioned about Scotland at all). On that page, I can then see that Halo is approved by the English Government to be used for Day 2 test. Please could you therefore confirm if I can book this for my Day 2 test in Scotland (and confirm the booking number on my passenger locator form 48 hrs before I travel - instead of having to book a PCR through the CTM portal).

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 85

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Thanks for the response.

Follow on question. I have booked my test through Chronomics as advised by TUI. I assume this test meets current standards. Interestingly it's strange that the Scottish government appear to mandating the use of CTM, yet the English government are not.

Appreciate if this can be elaborated on?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 86

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, June 2021:

I read on the Scottish Government website that the only Day2 & Day8 covid tests allowed are the ones on this website <https://quarantinehotelbookings.ctmportal.co.uk/> . However, in England tests from different private providers are accepted.

As I am only transiting through Scotland and doing my quarantine in England, am I allowed to use one of those providers allowed by the English government instead of those found on that link?

Secondly, the pre-departure tests allowed are both PCR and antigen tests which are to be taken 3 days prior departure, according to the website.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 87

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, June 2021:

Thank you for your kind response.

I had already seen that website, and I am aware of the different restrictions across the UK. However, my question was regarding the different providers. In the link you kindly sent it says I could use any of the private providers on the government list to be found

here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/993303/covid-private-testing-providers-general-testing-140621.csv/preview

Nevertheless, in the Scottish government website it says that there is only one link to be used that is accepted in Scotland, which is

this: <https://quarantinehotelbookings.ctmportal.co.uk/>. Therefore, my question is whether I can follow the rules on the English government website and so use the links provided in that list since I will be self-isolating in England rather than using the link on the Scottish government website.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 88

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, January 2022

There are a wide range of illnesses been neglected during this pandemic at the cost of lives. You say you are protecting the NHS, the NHS has been on it's knees for years due to cutbacks, reduced beds, closing of smaller hospitals (ideal for patients waiting for care packages before they can be discharged from hospital) and too many managers.

It's time we made our own choices and learned to live with the virus. Stop prolonging the inevitable. All through this pandemic it has been tit for tatting if the English Government do this we will do the opposite and now I feel it is at the cost of the children.

I really do hope you reconsider the mask wearing within schools and also the making of the primary children wash their hands as often. Children are naturally meant to get bugs to build their immunity. They have been at low risk right through this pandemic, please don't let them suffer any longer than they have to.

Remainder of document out of scope.

Item 89

Extract from an email to SG (via FM) from a correspondent, June 2021:

I am a very concerned NHS employee haven seen the pictures of Scottish football fans gathered together no social distancing no masks ,I worry about a possible third covid outbreak . I feel I have to say if this happens I blame you and the English government for allowing this . I have seen the effects lived the stress caused by covid I do not and like everyone in the NHS want to live through another one and like everyone please no more lock downs .

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 90

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, September 2021:

I have seen today that the English government are launching winter payments for people struggling on universal credit. And families struggling. Where do we go to get access to these funds?

"As the Barnett formula will apply in the usual way to additional funding in England, the devolved administrations will receive up to £79m of the £500m (£41m for the Scottish Government, £25m for the Welsh Government and £14m for the NI Executive). It will be for the devolved administrations to decide how to allocate this additional funding."

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 91

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Just listened to your Statement ...

Had to thank you for your continuing reasoned and careful approach to lifting Covid19 restrictions.

Thank you.

Always a comfort to listen to..unlike the worrying and uncaring approach of the English Government.

Please keep up the good work, we need you

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 92

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, July 2021:

Congratulations on your recent election, for which most everyone (myself included) gave a great sigh of relief, even if for you in present circumstances it must feel more like a curse!

However, with the pandemic as matters stand, relief is not otherwise on offer. The public briefing hiatus during the election and its largely continued absence thereafter - if perhaps a welcome respite for yourself - hasn't helped, and this together with the ongoing relaxations have given an unfortunate impression to too many that the crisis is over, when in fact the evidence is significantly to the contrary. Perhaps it is politically difficult to re-establish the necessary controls now, not least when the partisan Unionist media is so thirled to a dangerously reckless English regime.

I don't know what expert advice you are currently receiving, but I can only hope that it isn't another abject surrender to "herd immunity" by the likes of Jason Leitch as at the very beginning of the outbreak, and to which the English government (and its advisors?) appears now to have insidiously returned. The evidence clearly reveals that the current extent of vaccination alone is not sufficient to control the current wave of delta variant.

Likewise I don't know what actual concrete evidence you receive from your advisers beside words, but if you care to take a quick perusal of the attached graph, which shows the extent of the outbreak since 11.Sept last in terms of hospital numbers. This is a logarithmic curve, which has the advantage of giving early warning of developments from a low level where that is most useful. Given the level of infection in the community, whatever is being said about vaccination "taking the strain" from hospitals is directly contradicted by these numbers. A straight line upwards, as now, reveals a dangerous exponential expansion which will rapidly explode out of control if not addressed promptly. Until recently it was a doubling every ~30 days, but in the last fortnight that has more than halved to ~13 days. This is a warning signal. To ignore such a developing trend would be extremely foolish indeed, and that requires more decisive measures than simply refusing to follow Boris Johnston et al down their reality-denial rabbit hole. What isn't stopped now will have to be stopped much harder later, and we already await the coming of the Autumn with some trepidation.

To put this in context, we are currently at hospital levels as back in mid-March, with every impression of rapidly undoing all the improvements gained with such great effort since the beginning of the year. We cannot afford to keep living in a fools' paradise with this relentless enemy.

Please also arrange for yourself or your medical advisers to resume daily briefings (without the BBC if necessary - shame the damned backstabbers).

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 93

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

I have been advised by the English Government office that a passenger locator form is not required when flying from Scotland into England however, they advised me to contact the Scottish Government office to identify if a passenger locator form is required when flying into Scotland from England. Can you please advise?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 94

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, December 2021:

I understand I am now required to produce a negative PCR test that was taken 48 hours prior to arrival. However, my total travel time to Scotland will be 30.5 hours and there is not currently any facility available in New Zealand where I can receive COVID test results within 24 hours. This means I will not have test results in time for my departure.

I see that the English government are accepting testing from three days before a person's trip is about to commence. Is this definitely not the case in Scotland?

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 95**Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, March 2022**

Hi...I have a spare bedroom, double bed, and some storage facilities. I want to register for the re-settlement scheme..how do I do that, or can you do it for me ?

i am not interested in the £350 p/m English government payment, and would happily pass that to any refugee I might be allocated (if deemed suitable)to build up funds to stay in our country.

Any advice please, to help in the situation in Ukraine, which makes me angry, and disgusted with not only Russia's leader/s, but the English government's response.

Kind regards,

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 96**Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, February 2022:**

Please for the love of God can we stand alone and accept Ukrainian refugees out with the bounds of the English government. Open the doors, pure and simple. To hell with the Tories and Patel. Let's show the world we care Yours

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 97**Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, February 2022:**

I wish to declare my disgust for the English government response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. The comment made by a government minister regarding allowing refugees to apply for seasonal work permits is appalling.

We should be trying to help these people who have been evacuated from their homes through no fault of their own. The thought of them having to apply for a seasonal work permit in order to pick our fruit and veg is abhorrent and fills me with disgust and shame.

I am pleased to note that the Scottish government does not share this view and I hope we can find a way to help these brave people.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 98

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, March 2022:

I would like to express my concern on the farming industry.

Can I ask why the English government are backing farmers. With grant aid to help buy equipment. This is needing looked at by you, the Scottish government as soon as possible, The farming industry is struggling.

Instead of putting our industry at the bottom of the pile, support is urgently needed or our next generation are going to be less and less interested.

Get this sorted before Britain is without the resources and food supply they need.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 99

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent,

When I asked my manager to clarify that we weren't following the government guidance (of either the Scottish or English government), they informed me that the company's policy is that the government guidance is just guidance, and they are not legally obligated to follow it as these aren't laws.

Remainder of document contains personal information.

Item 100

Extract from an email to SG from a correspondent, August 2021:

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you today to introduce **[redacted]**. We feel there isn't enough being done in the UK to protect the lives of residents at risk of potential fires in high-risk residential buildings. The English government have a relief fund for residents however the Scottish government at present do not. We know that there's many buildings in Scotland that are high risk and need to be remediated, before this can happen, they must be made as safe as possible for residents. It is our understanding that many of these buildings will be council owned.

Our aim at **[redacted]** is to present a solution to the current issues regarding interim safety measures for buildings with a dangerous/combustible façade.

[Redacted] is the only fire detection and alert system integrated into the external façade. Using the latest smart technology, it recognises the early signs of a cladding fire and notifies residents to simultaneously evacuate as per the NFCC guidance.

Benefits of the system include:

- Compliant to NFCC guidelines – BS5839-1 L5 and EN54-25
- Interfaces with existing common fire alarm systems
- Negates the need for the expensive, inefficient, and unreliable Waking Watch

Installing both internally and externally, the **[redacted]** system gives residents the peace of mind to feel safe in their own home, until remediation works can be completed.

After the tragic fire that devastated the lives of many at Grenfell Tower, we all understand that there must be more done to protect residents whilst the issue of dangerous cladding is being resolved. I understand that as the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government this will be of interest to you and that you will feel strongly about this issue. Attached for your perusal is our current 5-page information brochure. I kindly request that we can discuss this further in an attempt to make your Scottish buildings safe, either by continuing this conversation with you or if you could point us in the direction of the relevant person that would be much appreciated.

We greatly appreciate the time taken to read the email and information attached and look forward to hearing back from you in due course.

Redactions and remainder of document contain personal information.