

Importance: Normal
[image001.png](#)

Dear all,

To confirm, the next calls in this series are currently scheduled for the following times:

18 Mar, 0800 – 0900 GMT / 0900 – 1000 EST

7 Apr, 0800 – 0900 GMT / 0900 – 1000 EST

We will be emailing agenda nearer the time, but as discussed on the last call we would be interested to hear any agenda topics you wish to raise in the calls. If you have any suggestions do let me know.

Best wishes,

5.1.2e



Government Office for Science

Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)
 Government Office for Science

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From: 5.1.2e

Sent: 24 February 2021 13:00

To: 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@comite-ethique.fr>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rivm.nl>; 5.1.2e (IfU, GWH) <5.1.2e@ethz.ch>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@usb.ch>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@mscbs.es>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@dhsc.gov.uk>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@sciensano.be>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@rki.de>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@iss.it>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@sfi.ie>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@pasteur.fr>; 5.1.2e <5.1.2e@pasteur.fr>

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Subject: RE: European Science Advisers Call 24 February: Readout

Dear all,

Thank you for attending the call this morning, please see below a readout. As promised on the call, please see attached the UK Government's Roadmap. The link to the full set of documentation for the Roadmap can also be found [here](#).

We will be in touch confirming the next call. In the meantime if you have suggestions for topics to be discussed during the next call please do let us know.

Best wishes,

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European Advisors Call (24 Feb 2021 0800 – 0900 GMT)

Represented country	Attendee	Job title

UK	
France	5.1.2e 5.1.2e
Switzerland	
Belgium	5.1.2e 5.1.2e
Spain	
Italy	5.1.2e
Ireland	

Apologies: 5.1.2e
Observers: 5.1.2e | 5.1.2e | 5.1.2e (UK).
Actions:

- ∨ UK to share the Government Roadmap [see attached].
- ∨ 5.1.2e to share information relating to the Irish expert group on ventilation, in due course.
- ∨ Suggested topics for next meeting to be passed to UK GCSA Private Office.

Key points:

UK – Rates continue to go down. Currently not easy to see effect of vaccines. AZ analysis in Scotland on the over-70s highlighted substantial vaccines efficacy (note observational data). Government Roadmap launched with an emphasis on it being data driven. Opening schools on 08 March. Risk modelling shows this may take R over 1, and data will be available in 4 weeks time. Schools will continue to employ physical separation, testing (all students and teachers in secondary schools will be tested twice a week. Mask will now be worn in classrooms in secondary schools, but there is some scepticism it will work. Every modelled scenario sees increase in numbers at this stage.

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Switzerland – Numbers have been lower (1000 cases per day). Rate of increase of UK variant has slowed down. Release measures announced – but there is a fear it is too early. Discussions on restaurants reopening in March but the modelling doesn't support that.

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Italy – Measuring a slight increase in number of new cases. Big difference between regions. Northern Italy - 400-100K in 7 days, less in south. Trying to sequence all variants and expect results in March. Seeing spread of Brazil variant in central Italy, and have a cluster of the S. African variant in South Tirol. UK variant is spreading all over Italy. Brazil was the first variant – now seeing competition with UK variant. Schools are open and masks being worn. Timetables have been changed to ensure staggered start times and more transport put on to get children to school in a socially distanced matter. Other measures in place (e.g. restaurants open midday and close at 1800). Modelling is showing March is at risk. Increasing capability to sequence.

Ireland – UK variant is dominant 90%. Hospitality unlikely to open until August. Phased reopening of schools from next week which will be staggered. Priority is primary schools and leavers taking exams. Pupils will have a choice for grades from teachers or taking their exams. Rapid testing taking place to look at asymptomatic cases and also looking at ventilation. Vaccination levels low (3-5%) due to supply. Disease has spiked highly and then came down and has now plateaued. Focus on trying to shut international non-essential travel with big fines offered. A lot of introduction happening through international travel. Ventilation work is looking at use of CO2 monitors as a surrogate, measures in meat plants (e.g. completely new ventilation systems, wearing masks, organising work areas, rapid testing) and assessing big retrofit programme to reduce CO2 emissions which need to be relooked at to ensure they also lessen disease transmissibility. Looking at drawing across principles from foot and mouth to improve testing capacity.

Therapeutics – France focussing on treatments for elderly / immunocompromised ahead of mass vaccination. Looking at treatments (cocktail of monoclonal antibodies) they can give in the first three days which require a short 2 hour hospitalisation. France also has 2 lab studies looking at cross-neutralisation of the UK/S African variants.



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Office for Science

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Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@beis.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Go Science) <[redacted]@beis.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Go Science) <[redacted]@go-science.gov.uk>; [redacted] (Go Science) <[redacted]@Go-Science.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; Secretariat Clb <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@comite-ethique.fr>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rki.de>; [redacted] <[redacted]@fcdof.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@sfi.ie>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rivm.nl>; [redacted] <[redacted]@rki.de>; [redacted] <[redacted]@iss.it>; [redacted] (GO-Science) <[redacted]@go-science.gov.uk>; [redacted] (BEIS) <[redacted]@go-science.gov.uk>; [redacted] (BEIS) <[redacted]@go-science.gov.uk>; [redacted] <[redacted]@go-science.gov.uk>; [redacted] (BEIS) <[redacted]@go-science.gov.uk>

Subject: European Science Advisers Call 24 February: Agenda

Dear all,

Please see attached the agenda for tomorrow's European Science Advisers call at 0800 GMT / 0900 CET.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

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 Team, Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)
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Dear all,

As per previous e-mails, we will hold these calls every other Wednesday at 8am GMT/9am CET moving forward, starting this Wednesday 24th February.

Zoom details:

[redacted] 5.1.2h

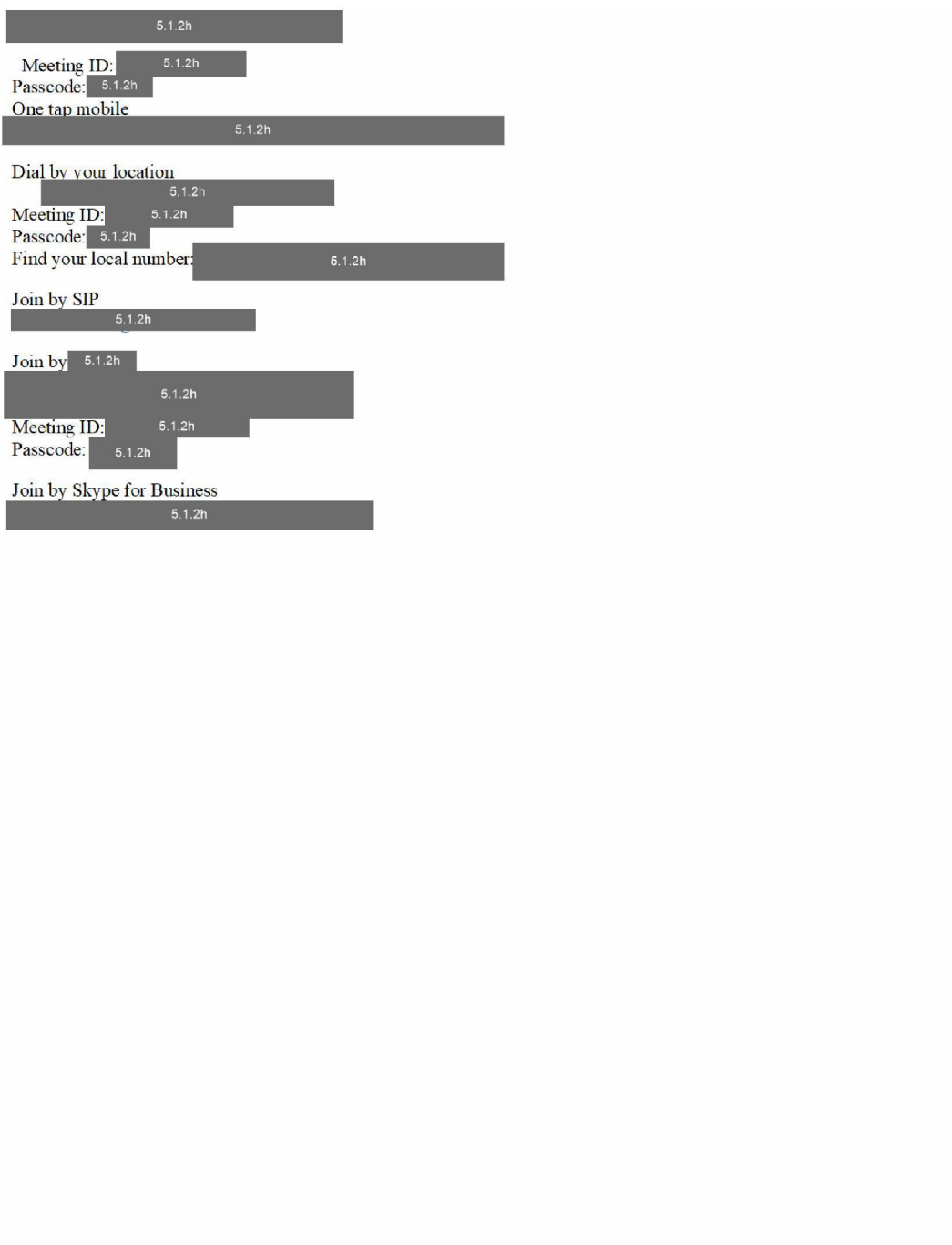
Meeting ID: [redacted] 5.1.2h
 Passcode: [redacted] 5.1.2h

Best wishes

[redacted]

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