



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP

Professor Chris Whitty
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Dear Professor Whitty,

Composition of SAGE and sub-groups informing the Government response to COVID-19

I and my Committee are very grateful for the very hard work that you and your colleagues are contributing to addressing the COVID-19 emergency. We hope very much that you will recover quickly from the symptoms that you have been experiencing.

I am writing following my Committee's evidence session on 25 March, in which we heard from Sir Patrick Vallance as well as other witnesses, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is paramount that an evidence-based approach is taken when responding to emergencies, particularly in the case of novel threats, such as that posed by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Therefore, we are grateful for the tireless work that experts and researchers are undertaking globally to understand the characteristics of the virus and to investigate ways to mitigate and contain the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, the work of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) is crucial in conveying that research and understanding to Government.

In the Committee's evidence session, Sir Patrick indicated that he was "very much in favour" of making the evidence informing SAGE as open and transparent as possible. Nevertheless, the Committee also heard concerns that the composition of SAGE, and the disciplines represented therein, remains largely unknown. Therefore, in the interests of transparency, I would be very grateful if you could let the Committee have the following information:

- The names and affiliations of all experts who have been involved in SAGE meetings held to date on the COVID-19 pandemic, and their relevant areas of expertise;
- The dates of all meetings of SAGE in 2020; and
- The sub-groups that have fed into SAGE and the experts who sit on those sub-groups.

I would be grateful if you could provide an answer by Friday 10 April. I have written in similar terms to Sir Patrick. I will be publishing this letter on the Committee's website in due course.

With best wishes,

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair