

Emails from/to Director General for Regulation, Ed Humpherson

to/from Ed Humpherson: 20/07/15 – 22/07/15

From: Ed Humpherson [redacted]

Sent: 20 July 2015 18:12

To: [redacted] (NHS ENGLAND)

Cc: Mark Pont

Subject: Re: NHS spending on private and non-NHS providers

[redacted]

Thanks for letting me know - will keep an eye out for it.

Has [redacted] brought you up to speed with the '6,000 deaths saved by moving to weekend working' issue? Full Fact raised this with us last week, and Mark Pont and [redacted] spoke about it.

My proposal is to write to you (rather than to a Minister or Perm Sec) inviting you to consider publishing, or explaining, the source of the 6.000 deaths saved. Before I do so, I wanted to check your reaction. How does that way forward seem to you?

Ed

Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

From: [redacted]
To: Ed Humpherson, [redacted]
Cc: Mark Pont, [redacted]
Date: 21/07/2015 09:35
Subject: RE: NHS spending on private and non-NHS providers

Ed

Thanks. As I understand it the research paper is in the final review stage and that the reviewer and the BMJ will determine the release date. So it's not in my gift to "publish" the data. What is disappointing from my point of view is that we have made good progress in the department in getting people signed up to the concept of quoted figures being in the public domain. I think what has happened is that some initial research findings have been shared and then that number has been more widely circulated than it should have been and then used publicly without the user being unaware of the status of the findings.

So in summary I could seek to explain but dictating publication is not in my gift.

Cheers

[redacted]

[REDACTED]
Finance Directorate
NHS England
5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE
[REDACTED]

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

From: Ed Humpherson [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2015 13:21
To: [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND)
Cc: Mark Pont; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Excess deaths

[REDACTED]

Following our phone call on excess deaths, this is what I thought we might say. Do you or [REDACTED] have any comments or suggestions?

Dear [REDACTED]

I note the recent use by the Secretary of State for Health of an unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England. This was reported widely in the media, and has been the subject of correspondence with the Authority.

As you and I discussed, we welcome the approach taken by the Department to releasing ad hoc data and analysis where it is used publicly by Ministers. Your approach ensures that statistics and other data mentioned publicly by Ministers and others are available equally to all users. You explained in this case that the estimate concerned comes from medical research, which you expect to be published by the researchers in the British Medical Journal in due course. Given your general approach, however, I would like to invite you to consider how best to supplement the information currently available so that users can understand the source of this estimate and how it differs from previous estimates. I would welcome an update from you once you have reached your conclusions, including any lessons learned for the general approach taken by the Department. In the meantime, if you would value any support either from me or from the Authority more widely, please do let me know.

As I explained, I'm keen to restate the principles - of ad hoc releases and equality of access - but in a fairly straightforward and supportive way.

Ed

Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2015 16:01
To: Humpherson, Ed [REDACTED]

Cc: Pont, Mark [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Excess deaths

Ed

Thanks for sharing this draft. I haven't had a chance to discuss with [REDACTED] but I'm content with the draft.

By the way I'm told that [REDACTED] will be named as one of the authors of the research paper, which explains his knowledge of the pre-published research findings.

[REDACTED]
Finance Directorate

NHS England

5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE
[REDACTED]

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

[REDACTED] **to/from Ed Humpherson: 19/08/15**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 August 2015 13:44

To: Humpherson, Ed [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; Laux, Richard

Subject: Excess deaths - supplementaries

Ed

Richard raised some supplementary questions on behalf of UKSA yesterday. [REDACTED] has kindly offered to handle these and will be in touch shortly.

[REDACTED]
Finance Directorate

NHS England

5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE
[REDACTED]

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

[REDACTED] **to/from Ed Humpherson: 19/08/15**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 August 2015 13:39

To: Humpherson, Ed [REDACTED]

Cc: National Statistician [REDACTED]; Cuddeford, Joe

Subject: Excess deaths

Ed

This is my update to the specific and general points you make about ministerial use of data. I continue to work with the DH Chief Analyst and our ministerial Private Office to promote

transparent and effective use of facts and evidence in ministerial speeches and statements. I appreciate your comments that you welcome our general approach to data used by Ministers in public and I am pleased to elaborate on our work, for example:

- As part of the process around developing strategic ministerial speeches we have put in place a template covering key points of Policy, Finance etc. This currently has a Fact Checking element which we will reinforce by making it a Fact Checking **and Sourcing** element, to reinforce the point that quoted facts should be in the public domain, i.e. already published or published as an accompanying document to the speech.
- To enable our Media Centre to respond rapidly to queries from the media and from organisations such as Full Fact concerning the source of facts in ministerial speeches, we have put in place an internal Media Centre Data Document for speeches which is designed to have the weblink and lead officials / analysts for each fact included. (The lesson learned from recent experience is to put these processes in place at the outset of speech development, and to continue to review them up to the point of speech delivery).
- In 2014 I developed, in partnership with my then HSCIC counterpart [REDACTED], checklist guidance for staff on the public use of unpublished adhoc statistical data.
- The DH Chief Analyst and Chief Medical Officer are in the process of considering how best to publish internal DH analysis which supports policy announcements, and how best to heighten the transparency of the research we commission. This is drawing on the [Govt Social Research Publication Protocol](#).

It is right for us to consider how figures on estimates of excess deaths have been used. The estimate used in the speech had been circulated within NHS England and DH in the context of policy development and advice. It was based on unpublished analysis of previously published research. It was not clear to all those receiving the estimate that it was unpublished and this does represent a shortfall in process. Medical research into the pattern of deaths associated with hospital admissions on different days of the week is continuing, and will be published according to standard protocols for commissioned research.

In terms of supplementing the information in the public domain, it has been decided to publish a statement of clarification on the [Research and Analysis](#) section of GOV.UK – an outcome I encouraged.

I value UKSA encouragement of Departmental transparency in the use of figures in Ministerial statements – this is consistent with the government's own transparency agenda, and we accept comment if we fall short of our ambitions. However I have reflected that the most recent two issues raised by UKSA with DH, accounts data and research data, both technically fall outside the scope of official statistics and does limit my ability to provide a full resolution to such issues. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss respective remits when we next meet up or for a wider discussion at a GSS HoPs meeting.

[REDACTED]
Finance Directorate

NHS England

5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE
[REDACTED]

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

[REDACTED] to/from Ed Humpherson: 01/09/15 – 03/09/15

From: [REDACTED]
To: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 01/09/2015 13:55
Subject: Excess deaths correspondence

Ed

Quick note to provide email confirmation following our conversation last week. I am happy for our correspondence on Excess Deaths to appear on the UKSA website.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Finance Directorate
NHS England
5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE
[REDACTED]

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

From: Ed Humpherson [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2015 13:27
To: [REDACTED] (NHS ENGLAND)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Excess deaths correspondence

[REDACTED]

Just to confirm this will be on our website later this afternoon. I've made a small change, which is to include in your first sentence the date of my outgoing letter to you. Hope this is OK.

Ed

Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2015 10:27
To: Humpherson, Ed [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Excess deaths correspondence
Ed

One minor point – the correspondence was to me at this email address and I responded from it. But you were writing to me in my DH HoP capacity and I responded in that capacity. Technically I should probably try and separate the work by using the two separate addresses but for practical purposes I major on using this email address for all my work.

I'll leave it to your judgement whether it is worth changing the Headers or perhaps we should just both note for future correspondence (which will be of course very infrequent!!)

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Finance Directorate
NHS England
5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

Email from [REDACTED] to John Pullinger – 19/07/15

From: [REDACTED]
To: Authority Enquiries@ONS,
Date: 19/07/2015 10:19
Subject: Potential breach of Code of Practice for Official Statistics

Dear Mr Pullinger,

I write to you as there appears to have been a breach of your code of practice by a minister using your statistics without them being available to all (Contrary to Principle 2 of your code of practice).

I refer to Mr Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, who has said there are 6000 excess deaths a year due to admission over the weekend. According to the BBC their sources in DoH say this comes from an as yet unpublished analysis of Hospital Episode Statistics 2013/14. I cannot find anything regarding this analysis on <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/hesdata> and was wondering if you could direct me to it as excess mortality is methodologically difficult to ascertain, especially on such large numbers.

What is the process for penalising the breaching the code of practice if this is the case? Should the secretary and his team no longer be given this information and directed to open source information only?

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Email from [REDACTED] to Ed Humpherson – 16/07/15

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16/07/2015 18:24 CET
To: Ed Humpherson
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

Dear Ed,

See our article on Jeremy Hunt's claim today that 6,000 deaths would be avoidable if the NHS provided a 7 day service.

https://fullfact.org/live/2015/jul/7_day_nhs_6000_deaths-46562

We're concerned that he seems to have used unpublished figures from NHS England.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

Full Fact

fullfact.org

[Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

9 Warwick Court, London, WC1R 5DJ

A registered charity (no. 1158683) and a non-profit company (no. 6975984) limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Emails related to [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] correspondence – 16/07/15 – 22/07/15

From: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS
To: "Donna Livesey" [REDACTED], "Iain Russell" [REDACTED], "Mark Pont" [REDACTED]
Date: 17/07/2015 09:21
Subject: Fw: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

Dear all

Am travelling to Oxford and haven't had a chance to read it.

Could one of you look at it and advise whether we should open it as casework, - and if a public comment is warranted, who we'd write to.

Thanks

Ed

From: Mark Pont/NEWPORT/ONS
To: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: Donna Livesey/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Iain
Russell/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Kieron Mahony/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 17/07/2015 14:42
Subject: Re: Fw: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

Ed (ccd as your original, plus Kieron who raised the same point with me this morning, and Richard to get him in the possible casework loop)

██████████ at DH told me that the 6000 is from unpublished research, which is an update of previous research that established an estimate of 5353. ██████████
██████████ He's clearly aware that this is the kind of behaviour that we and fullfact would take a dim view of. He also said that the results of the research are scheduled to be published in BMJ soon, so he thought that BMJ might also be taking a dim view of the leaking of results due to be published there. It sounded as though ██████████ had been talking to various people in DH inc ██████████
██████████ (██████████ is off sick at the moment btw.) ██████████ said that he was reviewing with ██████████ whether their fact checking process needs to be supplemented with a fact sourcing process, such that each number quoted can be linked back to something published.

I sounded ██████████ out about whether any particular kind of intervention from us might be helpful to him, or might be seen as a hindrance or a distraction. His personal view was that a letter from you to ██████████ or ██████████ would have a positive effect, and ██████████
██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Given the referral from fullfact, presumably we'd want to go public anyway, even if just to write back to ██████████ saying that we've written to ██████████, or some such?

I'm not sure that formally opening this as casework would really lead us establish more than we already know. How do you want to take this forward?

Mark

Mark Pont
Assessment Programme Manager
Monitoring & Assessment
UK Statistics Authority

██████████

From: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS
To: Mark Pont/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
Cc: Donna Livesey/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Iain
Russell/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Kieron Mahony/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,

Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Joe Cuddeford/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
[REDACTED] Ross Young/LONDON/ONS@ONS

Date: 17/07/2015 18:26

Subject: Re: Fw: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

Mark

Thank you. I think the position is pretty clear. Given the precedents, including the very recent one involving benefit sanctions, we should write a polite letter to [REDACTED], cc [REDACTED], inviting DH to put out the analysis to substantiate the figure of 6000 deaths. I suspect this is more oversight than anything, so I'd be inclined towards a moderate rather than finger-wagging tone.

Can you or the team prepare a draft for me to send please?

Ed

Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ
[REDACTED]

From: Joe Cuddeford
To: Ed Humpherson
Cc: Mark Pont; Donna Livesey; Iain Russell; Kieron Mahony;
Richard Laux; [REDACTED] Ross Young
Date: 20/07/2015 09:44 GDT
Subject: Re: Fw: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

Complaint received today on this, see below.
Joe

From: [REDACTED]
To: Authority Enquiries@ONS,
Date: 19/07/2015 10:19
Subject: Potential breach of Code of Practice for Official Statistics

Dear Mr Pullinger,

I write to you as there appears to have been a breach of your code of practice by a minister using your statistics without them being available to all (Contrary to Principle 2 of your code of practice).

I refer to Mr Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, who has said there are 6000 excess

deaths a year due to admission over the weekend. According to the BBC their sources in DoH say this comes from an as yet unpublished analysis of Hospital Episode Statistics 2013/14. I cannot find anything regarding this analysis on <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/hesdata> and was wondering if you could direct me to it as excess mortality is methodologically difficult to ascertain, especially on such large numbers.

What is the process for penalising the breaching the code of practice if this is the case? Should the secretary and his team no longer be given this information and directed to open source information only?

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Ross Young/LONDON/ONS
To: Joe Cuddeford/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: Mark Pont/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Donna Livesey/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Iain Russell/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Kieron Mahony/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED]
Date: 20/07/2015 09:51
Subject: Re: Fw: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

See also FullFact

Ross

Ross Young
Private Secretary to Sir Andrew Dilnot, Chair of the UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

[REDACTED]
web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Follow us on Twitter @UKStatsAuth

Joe, Ross, [REDACTED]

I have discussed with DH and I propose that I write to [REDACTED] on this, in line with the text below. Do you have any comments before we send? And Ross - do you think [REDACTED] would like to see it?

When we send it we can reply to Full Fact and the complainant below, sending a link to my letter.

Ed

Dear Mark

I note the recent use by the Secretary of State for Health of an unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England. This was reported widely in the media, and has been the subject of correspondence with the Authority.

As you and I discussed, we welcome the approach taken by the Department to releasing ad hoc data and analysis where it is used publicly by Ministers. Your approach ensures that statistics and other data mentioned publicly by Ministers and others are available equally to all users. You explained in this case that the estimate concerned comes from medical research, which you expect to be published by the researchers in the British Medical Journal in due course. Given your general approach, however, I would like to invite you to consider how best to supplement the information currently available so that users can understand the source of this estimate and how it differs from previous estimates. I would welcome an update from you once you have reached your conclusions, including any lessons learned for the general approach taken by the Department. In the meantime, if you would value any support either from me or from the Authority more widely, please do let me know.

As I explained, I'm keen to restate the principles - of ad hoc releases and equality of access - but in a fairly straightforward and supportive way.

Ed

Ed Humpherson
Director General for Regulation
UK Statistics Authority
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

From: Joe Cuddeford/LONDON/ONS
To: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED], Ross Young/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Mark Pont/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Donna Livesey/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Iain Russell/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Kieron Mahony/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS, Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 22/07/2015 17:08
Subject: Re: Fw: Jeremy Hunt's claim on 6,000 avoidable deaths

Ed

The draft looks good to me - good balanced and supportive tone. Good to have spoken to [REDACTED] in advance too I think.

Joe

Joe Cuddeford | UK Statistics Authority | Central Policy Secretariat | 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ

[REDACTED] Web: www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk Twitter: [@UKStatsAuth](https://twitter.com/UKStatsAuth)

Emails related to release of DH methodology note – 13/08/15 – 18/08/15

From: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED], Ross Young/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Date: 13/08/2015 14:09
Subject: Fw: Letter from Ed Humpherson

[REDACTED] Ross:

Here's the DH article.

I wasn't involved in the earlier work on this, but I do recall (my papers are in London ...) a quite detailed critique by a junior doctor. Perhaps we could have a chat tomorrow about this in the light of the DH article, and about handling - we might want to brigade our thinking over the next week or so, in order that when [REDACTED] replied to Ed's letter we can present Ed with our analysis and a draft reply to [REDACTED] (should all of this require one).

Richard.

----- Forwarded by Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS on 13/08/2015 14:05 -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 13/08/2015 13:17
Subject: RE: FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson

Richard

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-risk-of-death-associated-with-weekend-hospitalisation>

As discussed, this link is to a note which sets out the approach taken to estimate the number of excess deaths associated with weekend admissions to hospital, relevant to the figure used by the Secretary of State for Health in a recent speech, which was the subject of Ed's letter.

A number of officials in DH and NHS England have been involved with the decision to publish (I am selectively copying relevant senior analysts) and in providing this information which I hope you find helpful.

[REDACTED] will also be responding to Ed's letter, and I will provide a draft to [REDACTED] this week for him to pick up next week on his return from annual leave. That update will reflect, as invited, on the wider issues raised by Ed's letter. Colleagues and I would be happy to help with any further UKSA questions, ideally after [REDACTED] has returned and had the opportunity to respond.

PS – My availability tomorrow will be limited and I will be on leave Monday 17th, returning on 18th.

From: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS
To: [REDACTED],
Cc: [REDACTED], Ed
Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS
Date: 18/08/2015 14:17
Subject: Re: FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson

Hi [REDACTED],

I can't remember whether I thanked you for sending me this link - but if not, belatedly, thanks.

I had two queries, if I may ...

First - to what extent does the methodology used in the DH analysis (which mentions "having adjusted for other factors") address the limitations mentioned in this blog <http://juniordoctorblog.com/2015/07/18/weekend-mortality-and-the-7-day-nhs/> ?

Second - noting that the DH analysis (drawing on the Freemantle et al article) uses data from 2009-10, we wondered whether the analysis presented in the BMJ article (attached below) sheds any further light on the question of the risks of deaths associated with weekend hospitalisation, and hence estimates of excess weekend deaths?



[BMJ Qual Saf-2015-Ruiz-bmjqs-2014-003467.pdf](#)

Regards (and sorry to be adding to your workload!)

Richard.

Richard Laux
Deputy Head of Regulation
UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: [REDACTED]
Date: 18/08/2015 14:24
Subject: RE: FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson

Richard

██████ is currently this afternoon in the process of finalising his response. It is a surprise to get this query when I said "Colleagues and I would be happy to help with any further UKSA questions, ideally after Mark has returned and had the opportunity to respond"

██████



████████████████████
Department of Health

████████████████████
[Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk](#)

From: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS
To: ████████████████████,
Cc: ████████████████████
Date: 18/08/2015 15:54
Subject: Re: FW: Letter from Ed Humpherson

██████

Not sure why my timing is problematic - I'm on leave from the end of the week and didn't know when ████████ would be replying - so it seemed most sensible to contact you. I don't mind whether you address my issues as part of ████████ reply (if appropriate/straightforward this might bring the different strands together elegantly) or subsequently. All I'm doing is bringing things to your attention and asking for expert views!

Richard.

Email related to extra deaths associated with weekend admissions 22/10/15

From: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS
To: ████████████████████,
Cc: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS, ████████████████████,
████████████████████, ████████████████████,
Joe Cuddeford/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Caroline Jones/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS
Date: 22/10/2015 11:56
Subject: Extra deaths associated with weekend admissions

Morning ████████.

The Authority has been approached with a complaint about the Secretary of State's recent statement in the House about the number of extra deaths associated with weekend hospital admission. (Related concerns are featured prominently in today's media, as you'll probably be aware).

The main substance of the complaint that we have received is as follows:

- That the claim about the number of excess deaths is not supported by the research published in the BMJ (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h4596>)
- That the publication provides clear evidence that patients who remain in hospital on a Sunday or Saturday have an increased chance of survival.

And we have been asked for an explanation of Mr Hunt's role in the commissioning and interpretation of this data and on the unusual choice of methods, including the definition of weekend to include Fridays and Mondays.

The Authority would also be interested in your views on whether published research supports the attribution of causality in the following statements by Mr Hunt reported in Hansard (13 October 2015) that:

- someone is 15% more likely to die if admitted on a Sunday than on a Wednesday because we do not have as many doctors in our hospitals at the weekends as we have mid-week
- They [the excessive overtime rates that are paid at weekends] give hospitals a disincentive to roster as many doctors as they need at weekends, and that leads to those 11,000 excessive deaths

Might you be able to provide briefing by early next week, say end Monday?

I recognise that these questions might fall outside your area of responsibility, so do feel free to pass them on as appropriate.

Regards,

Richard.

Richard Laux
Deputy Head of Regulation
UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Richard Laux/LONDON/ONS@ONS,
Cc: Ed Humpherson/LONDON/ONS@ONS, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Joe Cuddeford/LONDON/ONS@ONS, Caroline Jones/NEWPORT/ONS@ONS,
[REDACTED]

Date: 23/10/2015 12:03
Subject: RE: Extra deaths associated with weekend admissions

Richard

Thank you for your e-mail. As you rightly surmised, I was aware of the media coverage this matter was generating.

I am also aware that Cabinet Office has received similar representations which are currently being handled in the department here by our Perm Sec's Office ([REDACTED], copied) and by colleagues in our NHS Clinical Services Team ([REDACTED] and [REDACTED], also copied). I have therefore passed on your correspondence to these colleagues to ensure that DH responses on this matter are suitably joined up. I can reassure you that analytical and statistical advice will continue to be made available to Ministers and policy officials handling this complex matter, and that I will take a personal interest in a response to UKSA even though the matter is not directly within my professional or operational control.

I am also copying to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in DH and [REDACTED] in the Office of the Chief Analyst.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Finance Directorate

NHS England

5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE

[REDACTED]

High quality care for all, now and for future generations.

From: Richard Laux [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 October 2015 16:57
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Extra deaths associated with weekend admissions

[REDACTED]

I wondered whether it was possible to have a chat about this, perhaps on Friday?

Richard.

Richard Laux

Deputy Head of Regulation

UK Statistics Authority | 1 Drummond Gate, London SW1V 2QQ [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 November 2015 12:43
To: [richard.laux@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:richard.laux@[REDACTED])
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Extra deaths associated with weekend admissions

Richard

[REDACTED] and I spoke following your conversation yesterday.

Perhaps it might be helpful if [REDACTED] and I met with you to discuss some of the detail about the evidence base for the 'weekend effect' further? I am the lead analyst for 7 day services in hospitals, and [REDACTED] is the policy lead; we would be very happy to discuss these issues in more detail.

Do let me know if you would find this helpful and whether you have availability tomorrow.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Lead analyst – NHS Clinical Services
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS

[REDACTED]
[Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 November 2015 09:59
To: richard.laux@ [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Extra deaths associated with weekend admissions

Hi Richard,

I understand that [REDACTED] has been trying to get hold of you. Just to let you know, [REDACTED] (our relevant DG) has separately been asked about this by Ed Humpherson, and I think they are intending to speak shortly. If you have any queries in the meantime, please do get in touch with [REDACTED].

Thanks,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

[REDACTED]
[Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk](#)

Related published correspondence on the issue

16 July 2015

Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

Letter from [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Full Fact to Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, UK Statistics Authority regarding Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/unpublished-estimate-of-excess-deaths-arising-through-weekend-admission-to-hospitals-in-england-4/>

19 July 2015

Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

Letter from [REDACTED] to John Pullinger, National Statistician, UK Statistics Authority regarding Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/unpublished-estimate-of-excess-deaths-arising-through-weekend-admission-to-hospitals-in-england-3/>

24 July 2015

Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

Letter from Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, UK Statistics Authority to [REDACTED], Department of Health regarding Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/unpublished-estimate-of-excess-deaths-arising-through-weekend-admission-to-hospitals-in-england-2/>

19 August 2015

Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

Letter from [REDACTED], Department of Health to Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, UK Statistics Authority regarding Unpublished estimate of excess deaths arising through weekend admission to hospitals in England

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/unpublished-estimate-of-excess-deaths-arising-through-weekend-admission-to-hospitals-in-england/>

3 December 2015

British Medical Journal article on mortality in hospitals on weekends

Letter from Sir Andrew Dilnot regarding British Medical Journal (BMJ) article on mortality in hospitals on weekends

<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/british-medical-journal-bmj-article-on-mortality-in-hospitals-on-weekends/>