

JBC Extraordinary Technical Board
Summary of Meeting
Thursday 13 May 2021
09.00 – 10.00am

Agenda

- International Travel Advice Risk Assessment methodology
- JBC Island Methodologies

Background

- This Technical Board meeting was to agree PHE's travel advice risk assessment methodology and JBC's Island Methodologies.
- The Board noted that they will not make any policy decisions, but would only consider the validity of the science and the methodology deployed. Any policy decisions arising from this meeting would be for Ministers.

Summary of discussion

1. International Travel Advice Risk Assessment methodology

- Individual travellers will be able to take adequate safety precautions and make educated decisions with the help of PHE's travel advice risk assessment methodology advice.
- It was agreed that it is important to make clear in any travel advice that border policies are subject to change at any time, so travellers should take appropriate measures.

2. JBC Island Methodologies

- The Board noted that the addition of island travel to the Red/ Amber/ Green methodology is intended to support a request by Ministers to risk assess prioritised islands (Greek, Spanish and Portuguese separately to the mainland).
- Levels of risk will be associated with different types of travel behaviour as seen last year and more needs to be done to quantify risk. Data on traveller behaviour will be an important tool to understand traveller demographics and levels of risk associated with Island travel, as well as regular assessment / testing of arrivals and passenger locator form data.

Conclusion

- The Board noted that it was important that the four nations should be able to contribute to the risk assessment review and make individual policy decisions once the methodology was collectively agreed.
- Clarity on the decision to put countries in the RAG listing was sought.
- The Board raised a question about the use by JBC of a borderline rating of Amber/Green in the risk assessment.

Decisions

- **International Travel Advice Risk Assessment methodology:** The Board approved the methodology noting that the travel/border risk assessment at times will diverge as they assess different risks with different aims.
- **JBC Island Methodologies:** The Board approved the methodology.

Attendees

- Dr Michael McBride – Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland (**Chair**)
- Dr Gregor Smith – Chief Medical Officer for Scotland
- Dr Frank Atherton – Chief Medical Officer for Wales
- Professor Chris Whitty – Chief Medical Officer for England
- Dr Dipti Patel – Chief Medical Officer, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Dr David Crossman – Chief Scientist, Scotland
- Dr Rob Orford – Chief Scientific Advisor for Health & Co-Chair of TAG, Welsh Government
- Fliss Bennee – Deputy Director & Co-Chair of TAG, Welsh Government
- Dr Huw Brunt – Chief Environmental Public Health Officer, Wales
- Dr Clare Gardiner – Director General, JBC
- Head of Legal, Policy and Compliance, JBC
- Dr Chris Savoury – JBC, Head of International
- Dr Paul Cleary – JBC, Director, Analysis and Assessment
- Dr Thomas Waite – JBC, Director, Health Protection
- Dr Anna Seale – JBC, Deputy Director, Health Science
- Dr Jane Williams – JBC, Deputy Director, National & International
- Dr Katherine Russell – Public Health England, Head of International Cell
- Rachel Glass – Public Health England, International Cell
- Gemma Louise Nye – Interim Deputy Director Public Health, Wales
- 5 government officials and observers from the JBC and Devolved Administrations