

## **JBC Technical Board**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1. Overview**

The Joint Biosecurity Centre (JBC), part of NHS Test and Trace, aims to identify early outbreaks of COVID-19 and to ensure local and national decision makers have access to expert analysis and insights when responding to outbreaks within their jurisdictions. The JBC has developed analytical methodologies to assess data and contextual information to build a picture of COVID-19 risk to the UK. This enables local and national decision makers to manage the COVID-19 risk from both National and International transmission.

The JBC Technical Board will provide clinical and scientific rigour, agree the methodologies by which the COVID-19 Alert Level will be determined, public health risks from direct inbound travel to the UK will be assessed, and consider other related matters as necessary.

#### **2. Membership**

The Board shall comprise the Chief Medical Officers of the four nations of the United Kingdom and the Director General of the JBC:

- Professor Chris Witty
- Dr Michael McBride
- Dr Gregor Smith (Interim)
- Dr Frank Atherton
- Dr Clare Gardiner – Director General, JBC

Chief Scientific Advisers are also invited to attend the meeting, as required, alongside other relevant specialists, depending on the subject matter to be discussed, as agreed by the four CMOs. The chair will rotate between the four CMOs, or their nominated Deputies, from one meeting to the next, according to the following pattern: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and will operate where possible on a principal of unanimity. Other experts and officials may be invited to attend meetings on an ad-hoc basis should Board members consider it necessary.

#### **3. Role and Responsibilities**

The JBC Technical Board will:

- i. Ensure the methodologies underpinning the JBC's UK-wide assessment products are clinically and scientifically robust. To include:
  - a. review and change the methodology by which the UK Covid-19 Alert Level is determined;
  - b. review and change the approach to assessing the public health risks associated with direct inbound travel from overseas;
- ii. Provide constructive challenge and recommendations for improvements on methodologies using the latest available information, e.g. new data capture or further understanding of the virus;
- iii. Identify any associated risks and opportunities for consideration;
- iv. Oversee a co-ordinated approach to stakeholder engagement and communication of any change of UK Covid-19 Alert Level;
- v. Consider and co-ordinate future products that would inform decision makers on the health risks to the UK from Covid-19 e.g. focusing on specific sectors, communities or groups.

#### **4. Secretariat**

The secretariat function for this Board will be provided by JBC, working closely with relevant officials from each Devolved Administration. Minutes of the meetings shall be distributed to attendees and retained for audit purposes.

#### **5. Frequency of Meetings**

The Board shall meet quarterly. Extraordinary meetings can take place at other intervals, if required.