
RT HON BORIS JOHNSON

PO BOX 80402, LONDON, SW1P 9UY

Roger Smethurst
Departmental Records Officer
Deputy Director; Cabinet Secretary Group

By email only: roger.smethurst@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

16 January 2024

Dear Roger,

I am currently writing about my time in office, under the normal rules – not for publication until after the next election.

For the sake of greater accuracy I have very urgent need to refer to my papers for 2020.

I hereby append a list of all the meetings, conversations or events that will certainly have generated official documentation of one kind or another.

It would be a very great kindness if someone could help by digging out the relevant:-

- box notes
- any other submissions and replies
- background briefings
- read-outs or official notes
- cabinet and other minutes

This should be fairly simple, I hope. I have gone through the entire PM diary for 2020 and identified all the phone calls, meetings, visits, press conferences, speeches etc etc that will – I am certain – have generated some kind of official record.

I am of course very happy to come and inspect this material as soon as you can locate it.

With many thanks for your help in advance. A great deal has already been written about this period – and I am determined to ensure that my account is firmly rooted in the historical record.

With best wishes,



RT HON BORIS JOHNSON

contact@borisjohnsonoffice.com

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Appendix 1

JANUARY 2020

Tuesday 7 January

- read out of call with Erdogan

Wednesday 8 January

- any notes on the meetings on Iran
- read out of call with Trudeau

Thursday 9 January

- read out of call with Rouhani
- read out of call with Emir of Qatar

Friday 10 January

- read out call with Lotven of Sweden
- any notes from chequers discussions on government priorities

Sunday 12 January

- any notes on trip to Oman
- read out on Chancellor Merkel call

Monday 13 January

- notes or briefings on meeting with Taoiseach

Tuesday 14 January

- notes or briefings on bilat with Chancellor
- read out on Ardern call

Wednesday 15 January

- read out on Bolsonaro call

Thursday 16 January

- any briefings or notes on broadband round table
- any notes or briefings on Integrated security and defence review

Sunday 19 January

- notes on Libya conference Berlin – all briefings and bilats

Monday 20 January

- Africa conference - all notes and briefings including with Duke of Sussex

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Thursday 23 January

- any notes or briefings on social care teach in
- notes or briefings on EU Exit committee

Monday 27 January

- broadband meeting – all notes and briefings

Tuesday 28 January

- read out Trump call

Thursday 30 January

- briefings and notes, read out of meeting with CX and Transport Sec

Friday 31 January

- Cabinet minutes

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday 2 February

- any notes or briefings on Streatham terror incident

Monday 3 February

- Greenwich speech
- notes/briefings on domestic priorities
- notes/briefings on CX bilat

Tuesday 4 February

- notes etc for COP launch
- Sultan of Brunei readout
- EU Exit Cabinet Committee notes

Wednesday 5 February

- notes etc for meetings on HS2
- read out of Netanyahu call

Monday 10 Feb

- COP update notes

Tuesday 11 February

- notes on social care reform briefings
- notes on HS2 visit

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Wednesday 12 February

- notes on tax teach in
- notes on social care discussion

Tuesday 18 February

- call with Xi of China read out

Wednesday 19 February

- notes for CX meeting
- notes for housing and planning meeting

Thursday 20 February

- Trump call read out

Monday 24 February

- notes on domestic priorities meeting
- Plenkovic read out
- CX bilat notes

Tuesday 25 February

- notes on Heathrow meeting with Transport Sec
- EU Exit Cabinet Committee
- notes on Integrated Security and Defence Review

Wednesday 26 February

- notes on homelessness and rough sleeping meeting
- read out of call with Lord Salisbury

Thursday 27 February

- notes of visit to Kettering hospital

Friday 28 February

- read out of call with Witherow
- read out of call with Vucic

MARCH 2020

Sunday 1 March

- notes on visit to Public Health England

Monday 2 March

- notes on Erdogan call

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- notes on drink with Prince Charles

Wednesday 4 March

- notes on Cabinet Committee on Climate Change
- Macron call read out

Thursday 5 March

- notes on meeting with Mark Carney et al

Friday 6 March

- read out MBZ call
- notes on visit to Mologic
- notes on transgender submission

Monday 9 March

- notes on meeting on Huawei

Tuesday 10 March

- notes on Crime and Justice Taskforce

Wednesday 11 March

- Cabinet minutes
- notes on meeting on NI protocol

Thursday 12 March

- Modi call read out

Friday 13 March

- Merkel call read out
- Conte call read out

Saturday 14 March

- Morrison call read out
- Trump call read out

Sunday 15 March

- Abe call read out
- MBS read out

Monday 16 March

- G7 leaders read out

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Tuesday 17 March

- cabinet minutes
- notes for meeting with CX
- notes for mass testing roundtable

Thursday 19 March

- notes on call with Varadkar
- notes on call with CX

Saturday 22 March

- notes on post-Covid 19 strategy meeting

Monday 23 March

- Xi read out

APRIL 2020

Friday 24 April

- notes on the meeting to update me at Chequers

Tuesday 28 April

- bilat with CX

Thursday 30 April

- Cabinet minutes

MAY 2020

Friday 1 May

- notes on strategy meeting
- notes on update on schools

Saturday 2 May

- notes on strategy meeting with CX

Monday 4 May

- notes on schools meeting

Tuesday 5 May

- notes on EU exit meeting
- notes on education strategy meeting

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Wednesday 6 May

- notes on meeting of quad of ministers

Friday 8 May

- Putin read out
- Morawiecki read out
- notes on cycling meeting

Tuesday 12 May

- notes on meeting on origins of Covid
- notes on domestic priorities meeting

Wednesday 13 May

- notes on Kate Bingham meeting

Thursday 14 May

- Croughton notes
- Emir of Qatar read out
- notes on meeting with SoS Transport

Friday 15 May

- education meeting
- notes on China policy meeting
- Trudeau read out
- Varadkar read out

Monday 18 May

- notes on Middle East Peace Process meeting
- MBZ read out

Tuesday 19 May

- box notes on protocol

Wednesday 20 May

- update on Test and Trace
- notes for Crime and Justice Taskforce
- notes for meeting with SoS transport

Friday 22 May

- notes on economy meeting

Thursday 28 May

- notes on meeting to discuss Hong Kong

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Friday 29 May

- notes on Obesity Strategy meeting

JUNE 2020

Monday 1 June

- notes on EU exit meeting
- notes on meeting w SoS Scotland, Wales, NI
- notes on meeting Simon Stevens

Tuesday 2 June

- notes on economy meeting
- cabinet minutes
- notes on meeting with Defence Sec

Thursday 4 June

- notes on economy meeting
- notes on domestic priorities meeting

Friday 5 June

- notes on meeting SoS Transport

Tuesday 9 June

- notes on economy meeting
- EU exit strategy meeting

Friday 12 June

- notes on trip to lighthouse lab
- economy seminar on skills and the labour market

Monday 15 June

- notes on meeting w EU presidents

Tuesday 16 June

- notes on phone call w Marcus Rashford

Wednesday 18 June

- Morrison read out
- notes on macron visit

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Thursday 19 June

- op note Bovingdon Primary

Wednesday 24 June

- notes on capabilities meeting
- National Security Council
- EU exit strategy

Friday 26 June

- economy seminar
- all the papers relating to this including the presentation by Vivian Hunt

Saturday 27 June

- phone call w Morawiecki
- phone call w Stoltenberg

Tuesday 30 June

- any notes surrounding economic recovery speech in Dudley

JULY 2020

Wednesday 1 July

- notes on call with Sunil Mittal

Thursday 2 July

- notes on CX economic statement
- notes on meeting w Paul Deighton
- all notes and papers from economy seminar

Monday 6 July

- op notes and briefings for siemens visit
- Netanyahu call

Tuesday 7 July

- Merkel call
- notes of Barnier dinner

Wednesday 8 July

- notes on meeting with SOSNI - victims' payments etc

Thursday 9 July

- notes on teach in on carbon capture and wind power

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Friday 10 July

- meeting with Dowden on 5G

Monday 13 July

- meeting on skills policy CX, Alison Wolf et al

Tuesday 14 July

- meeting on the economy – all notes, briefings, papers
- Abbas of Palestine read out

Wednesday 15 July

- notes on meeting to discuss planning CX, Jenrick, Pincher et al

Thursday 16 July

- notes on Randox meeting
- notes on Crime and Justice task force meeting

Friday 17 July

- notes on cabinet conference call

Monday 20 July

- op note for visit to school in Tonbridge

Tuesday 21 July

- seminar on green investment
- meeting with Mike Pompeo

Wednesday 22 July

- notes on Jet Zero Council
- all notes and papers on economic seminar on local growth

Thursday 23 July

- op note and briefing for visit to Orkney

Friday 24 July

- notes and papers on National Infrastructure Summit at Chequers

Tuesday 28 July

- op note for meeting with Darren Henry
- Sanchez call read out

Wednesday 29 July

- update on small boats – all notes etc

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Friday 31 July

- minutes of Cabinet update

AUGUST 2020

Wednesday 5 August

- notes for meeting on population testing
- call with Vizcaya of Peru
- notes for project Leith

Thursday 6 August

- housebuilding visit op notes

Monday 10 August

- op notes for trip to catholic school
- Welsh business leaders notes and papers

Wednesday 12 August

- notes for fiscal strategy meeting
- meeting on population testing

Thursday 13 August

- meeting with Taoiseach

Monday 17 August

- conversations with education team? Any notes?

Monday 24 August

- papers and notes for China seminar
- notes for meeting with green innovation business leaders
- notes for meeting on small boats

Thursday 27 August

- mass testing meeting notes and papers

SEPTEMBER 2020

Wednesday 2 September

- Abe read out
- papers on Covid enforcement meeting

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- read out of call with Mohammed bin Salman

Thursday 3 September

- any notes of meeting with Kushner?
- papers on meeting on population testing
- al Thani read out
- EU exit committee

Friday 4 September

- op note and background for HS2 visit

Saturday 5 September

- notes of call with Cressida Dick

Monday 7 September

- notes of visit to Beechfield School
- Macron phone call
- notes of Severin Schwan call

Tuesday 8 September

- call with King of Saudi Arabia
- papers for meetings on skills reform and draft speech

Wednesday 9 September

- Conference call with Cabinet
- phone call with Taoiseach

Thursday 10 September

- notes on meeting with Matt Hancock
- notes on social care discussion with CX
- notes on population testing meeting with Dido Harding

Friday 11 September

- notes on economy seminar

Monday 14 September

- notes on UKIM debate prep
- notes on Climate Change Cabinet Committee

Tuesday 15 September

- briefings for Liaison Committee

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Friday 18 September

- op notes for visit to Jenner Institute

Sunday 20 September

- notes on round table with Covid scientists

Tuesday 22 September

- Cabinet minutes

Wednesday 23 September

- notes on economic policy meeting with CX

Friday 25 September

- notes on policy meetings

Monday 28 September

- notes on meeting with Defence Sec
- notes on vaccines update meeting
- Erdogan read out

Wednesday 30 September

- notes on skills speech

OCTOBER 2020

Thursday 1 October

- papers on Space Council
- National Security Council
- nuclear deterrent meetings

Saturday 3 October

- op note for trip to FM Conway Heathrow

Monday 5 October

- papers for visit to Octopus energy

Wednesday 7 October

- Charles Michel call
- papers for discussion of exams

Thursday 8 October

- Zelensky meeting – briefings and read out

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- Covid NHS meeting

Friday 9 October

- Jet Zero technical briefing

Saturday 10 October

- Macron read out

Sunday 11 October

- Merkel read out

Monday 12 October

- Covid statement and press conference notes

Wednesday 14 October

- von der Leyen call

Thursday 15 October

- notes on call with Scottish business

Friday 16 October

- briefings and notes for press conference

Monday 19 October

- notes for Net Zero teach in
- Covid update notes

Tuesday 20 October

- Cabinet minutes
- call to business leaders

Wednesday 21 October

- discussion on jobs with CX

Thursday 22 October

- Iraq PM meeting
- Press conference notes
- meeting with Defence Secretary

Friday 23 October

- meeting on testing

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Monday 26 October

- Foreign Secretary bilat
- climate diplomacy discussion

Tuesday 27 October

- meeting on Industrial Strategy
- Integrated Review meeting

Thursday 29 October

- op note for SBS trip

Friday 30 October

- Covid strategy meeting

Saturday 31 October

- press conference notes and briefings

NOVEMBER 2020

Thursday 5 November

- press conference notes

Friday 6 November

- op notes and briefing for testing visit

Saturday 7 November

- von der Leyen visit
- Rashford call read out

Monday 9 November

- meeting on NHS capacity
- meeting with Sir John Armitt
- press conference notes
- Trudeau call

Tuesday 10 November

- call with President Moon of Korea
- Cabinet minutes
- notes on bilat with Gavin Williamson
- Green Recovery speech
- call with President Biden

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Tuesday 17 November

- Carney meeting
- vaccines update
- Green Industrial Strategy op-ed

Wednesday 18 November

- mass testing meeting
- Green Investment round table

Thursday 19 November

- statement on Integrated Review
- EU Exit Strategy Cabinet Committee

Friday 20 November

- Aung San Suu Kyi call read out
- Priti Patel meeting
- population testing meeting
- NI investigation meeting with Brandon

Tuesday 24 November

- Sultan of Oman meeting
- MBS call

Wednesday 25 November

- Spending Review notes

Thursday 26 November

- Cabinet conference call
- Foreign Secretary meeting

Friday 27 November

- Porton Down op notes and briefing
- Modi read out
- Exams 2021 meeting

Monday 30 November

- Wockhardt op note

DECEMBER 2020

Tuesday 1 December

- Covid speech to parliament

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- Nuclear meeting

Wednesday 2 December

- Brexit legislative plan meeting
- vaccines meeting
- press conference

Thursday 3 December

- Future economy meeting with CX, Gove et al
- NSC

Saturday 5 December

- Ministerial small group meeting

Monday 7 December

- von der Leyen call

Tuesday 8 December

- vaccine roll-out visit
- catch up with Kate Bingham
- Brexit update

Wednesday 9 December

- trip to Brussels notes and briefings

Thursday 10 December

- MBZ bilateral

Friday 11 December

- visit to National Renewable Centre

Saturday 12 December

- Climate Ambition summit

Sunday 13 December

- call with Von der Leyen
- Cabinet call

Monday 14 December

- Covid update
- briefings on UK Internal Market Bill
- briefings on COP

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Tuesday 15 December

- Cabinet
- Vaccines meeting
- Covid strategy
- Fisheries meeting

Wednesday 16 December

- schools discussion

Thursday 17 December

- Brexit update
- meeting to discuss airports
- call with VDL
- Openreach visit notes

Saturday 19 December

- Brexit update papers
- Cabinet conference call
- press conference

Monday 21 December

- Brexit calls and papers
- Macron call
- press conference

Tuesday 22 December

- VDL call
- vaccines meeting

Wednesday 23 December

- VDL calls (at least three of them!)

Tuesday 29 December

- vaccines meeting

Wednesday 30 December

- meetings with Pascal Soriot and Louise Richardson of Oxford

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