

From: [REDACTED]@dh.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:06
To: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)
Subject: FW: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Mark

Full Fact have published an update. Their article is balanced and acknowledges our response to the 'transparency' problem.

[REDACTED]



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Health

E: [REDACTED]
Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

T: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Dear All,

Please see updated FullFact article on 6,000 deaths figure following publication of additional material by DH last week. Thanks for your help in getting this prepared.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

https://fullfact.org/live/2015/aug/evidence_6000_weekend_deaths-47287



Department
of Health

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

E: [REDACTED] T: [REDACTED]

[@DeptHealthPress](#)

For contact numbers of individual press officers, [click here](#)

For emergency out of hours queries, call [REDACTED]

From: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)

Sent: 21 July 2015 09:36

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

Thanks

Mark Svenson

Head of Analytical Services (National)

Operational Information for Commissioning

Finance Directorate

NHS England

SE24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 July 2015 09:35

To: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

Mark

[REDACTED] and Deborah Williams are my key contacts on this (and to a slightly lesser extent, Simon Bennett)

Thanks

From: Mark Svenson

Sent: 21 July 2015 09:29

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

[REDACTED]

Can you let me know with whom you have been liaising within NHS England? I just need to know who I might need to update as this progresses.

Mark Svenson

Head of Analytical Services (National)

Operational Information for Commissioning

Finance Directorate

NHS England

SE24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 17:41
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

One final update for the day:

As mentioned, the paper is in the final review stage. NHS E have heard from one of the clinical fellows at BMJ. Apparently the reviewer "is very resistant to be hurried and to the thought the BMJ might be used a political conduit so that makes it tricky".

The Editor is aware and has advised the authors to "send timely queries about the progress but not to the point of annoyance".

Will keep you all updated.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 15:09
To: [REDACTED] Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

[REDACTED] et al

I have just received a call from a UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) official - [REDACTED] -who has enquired about the use of the 6,000 figure raised by Full Fact and BBC as unpublished.

We had what I believe was a constructive conversation during which I made clear that I was expressing my views as a DH analyst not speaking on behalf of DH as a whole -- this reserves the right of [REDACTED] and Mark Svenson to express an alternative and more senior view as required. Key points from the chat:

- I confirmed the 6,000 figure was unpublished
- But I stressed that the 6,000 figure was based on research commissioned by NHS England due to be published in BMJ, which was an update on research already published (where the figure was 5,353)
- I acknowledged we are aware that using unpublished figures in Govt / Ministerial statements is considered poor practice by Full Fact and UKSA.
- I mentioned that the figure had been shared by NHS England with DH, and that DH officials and Ministers could well have assumed that the figure was taken from a published study.

- I also mentioned the desire that both [REDACTED] and Mark S share for high profile Ministerial statements to include a process which carefully checks and sources facts, and also to prepare a data document for use by Media Centre to respond to media / Full Fact queries on data sources used in statements.
- [REDACTED] took this as a sign that we are positively engaged with the transparency imperative.
- I was asked if I had a view on if / how UKSA might take this forward and I offered the view that a note from [REDACTED] (their chief exec) to [REDACTED] or Mark raising this as a matter of regret and asking how we proposed to handle in future would be a less sensitive approach than a Dilnot letter to SoS of the rapping knuckles variety.
- Clearly UKSA Chair and officials will make their own decisions but I hope to have influenced the outcome in a positive fashion.

PS – I understand Mark Svenson is absent unwell while I believe [REDACTED] is at a conference today (discussing quality of health). I'm happy to continue to advise but they ought to be consulted on any further engagement with UKSA.

[REDACTED]



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department of Health

E: [REDACTED]

Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 July 2015 11:09

To: [REDACTED]

Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

We're looking into this and in conversations with NHSE. Will update as soon as we know more.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 July 2015 10:08

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

Looping in SpAds and Comms

In summary - in his print huddle, SoS said the 6000 figure came from Sir Bruce Keogh. The study referred to by Bruce is currently unpublished.

We need to get the study published ASAP. [REDACTED] – can you please let me know how you get on with NHS England and if I can help.

Best
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 09:24
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]
Subject: NHS: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided
Importance: High

Full Fact has picked up on the unpublished status of the 6,000 weekend excess deaths figure, as was the risk, and they will report it to UK Statistics Authority. See link below

Questions:

1. To prepare for the likelihood of a UKSA enquiry, shall we proactively contact UKSA with our position – which is that the research will be published 'soon? (Or do we wait?)
2. And what influence do we or NHS England have on the timing of the BMJ update?

[REDACTED] – I checked Full Fact about 4pm but thanks for this alert to their 5.18 article

[REDACTED]



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Health

E: [REDACTED]
Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 09:09
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW:

[REDACTED] – FYI – after the email chain yesterday and the reference to Full Fact, this popped up on me Facebook news feed at home last night..

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2015 18:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject:

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

This email was scanned by the Symantec anti-virus service

In case of problems, please call your IT support helpdesk.

From: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)

Sent: 21 July 2015 09:29

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

[REDACTED]

Can you let me know with whom you have been liaising within NHS England? I just need to know who I might need to update as this progresses.

Mark Svenson

Head of Analytical Services (National)

Operational Information for Commissioning

Finance Directorate

NHS England

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

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

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 July 2015 17:41

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND); [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

One final update for the day:

As mentioned, the paper is in the final review stage. NHS E have heard from one of the clinical fellows at BMJ. Apparently the reviewer "is very resistant to be hurried and to the thought the BMJ might be used a political conduit so that makes it tricky".

The Editor is aware and has advised the authors to "send timely queries about the progress but not to the point of annoyance".

Will keep you all updated.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 July 2015 15:09

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

[REDACTED] et al

I have just received a call from a UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) official - [REDACTED] - who has enquired about the use of the 6,000 figure raised by Full Fact and BBC as unpublished.

We had what I believe was a constructive conversation during which I made clear that I was expressing my views as a DH analyst not speaking on behalf of DH as a whole – this reserves the right of [REDACTED] and Mark Svenson to express an alternative and more senior view as required. Key points from the chat:

- I confirmed the 6,000 figure was unpublished
- But I stressed that the 6,000 figure was based on research commissioned by NHS England due to be published in BMJ, which was an update on research already published (where the figure was 5,353)
- I acknowledged we are aware that using unpublished figures in Govt / Ministerial statements is considered poor practice by Full Fact and UKSA.
- I mentioned that the figure had been shared by NHS England with DH, and that DH officials and Ministers could well have assumed that the figure was taken from a published study.
- I also mentioned the desire that both [REDACTED] and Mark S share for high profile Ministerial statements to include a process which carefully checks and sources facts, and also to prepare a data document for use by Media Centre to respond to media / Full Fact queries on data sources used in statements.
- [REDACTED] took this as a sign that we are positively engaged with the transparency imperative.
- I was asked if I had a view on if / how UKSA might take this forward and I offered the view that a note from [REDACTED] (their chief exec) to [REDACTED] or Mark raising this as a matter of regret and asking how we proposed to handle in future would be a less sensitive approach than a Dilnot letter to SoFS of the rapping knuckles variety.
- Clearly UKSA Chair and officials will make their own decisions but I hope to have influenced the outcome in a positive fashion.

PS – I understand Mark Svenson is absent unwell while I believe [REDACTED] is at a conference today (discussing quality of health). I'm happy to continue to advise but they ought to be consulted on any further engagement with UKSA.



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Health

Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 11:09

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

We're looking into this and in conversations with NHSE. Will update as soon as we know more.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 10:08

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

Looping in SpAds and Comms

In summary - in his print huddle, SoS said the 6000 figure came from Sir Bruce Keogh. The study referred to by Bruce is currently unpublished.

We need to get the study published ASAP [REDACTED] - can you please let me know how you get on with NHS England and if I can help.

Best
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 09:24

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Mark Svenson; [REDACTED]

Subject: NHS: no source yet for claims that 6,000 deaths a year could be avoided

Importance: High

Full Fact has picked up on the unpublished status of the 6,000 weekend excess deaths figure, as was the risk, and they will report it to UK Statistics Authority. See link below

Questions:

1. To prepare for the likelihood of a UKSA enquiry, shall we proactively contact UKSA with our position - which is that the research will be published 'soon'? (Or do we wait?)
2. And what influence do we or NHS England have on the timing of the BMJ update?

[REDACTED] - I checked Full Fact about 4pm but thanks for this alert to their 5.18 article



Department
of Health

Department of Health

Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 July 2015 09:09
To: Canham, David
Subject: FW:

[REDACTED] – FYI – after the email chain yesterday and the reference to Full Fact, this popped up on me Facebook news feed at home last night..

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2015 18:23
To: [REDACTED]
Subject:

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

This email was scanned by the Symantec anti-virus service

In case of problems, please call your IT support helpdesk.

From: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Dave

Thanks for directing me to the article.

Couple of minor points

- i) I've lost track of the order of events – did UKSA ask for clarification from NHS England or DH? I can't recall. The article reads slightly oddly in that it says UKSA asked for clarification from NHS England and then DH respond. I think it might be that Ed used my NHS England address but was writing to me as HoP??
- ii) The "every day lived up to Wednesdays" phrase is clunky – I think I know what they mean but is it not clear – I think they mean if every day had the same mortality rate as the Wednesday mortality rate – is that right as far as you understand it?

Mark Svenson
Head of Analytical Services (National)

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

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:06
To: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)
Subject: FW: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Mark

Full Fact have published an update. Their article is balanced and acknowledges our response to the 'transparency' problem.

[REDACTED]



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Health
[REDACTED]

Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Dear All,

Please see updated FullFact article on 6,000 deaths figure following publication of additional material by DH last week. Thanks for your help in getting this prepared.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

https://fullfact.org/live/2015/aug/evidence_6000_deaths-47287



Department
of Health

[redacted] NHS Care desk
Department of Health, 79 Whitehall, SW1A 2NS

[@DeptHealthPress](#)

For contact numbers of individual press officers, [click here](#)
For emergency out of hours queries, call [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:55
To: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)
Subject: RE: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Mark

On point (i), the first contact was from [redacted] by phone to me. This was doubtless prompted by the first Full Fact report where they openly stated they would refer this to UKSA. [redacted] phoned me reasonably given that query was of a DH Minister speech.

I put the point to [redacted] that [redacted] should write to you (I meant as DH HoP) as distinct from [redacted] writing to SofS. This was agreed by [redacted] who then did write to you, and I suspect his office used your e-mail signature of your NHS England role (which I noticed but decided not to query). I doubt if everyone in [redacted]'s office understand the distinction between NHS England and DH in this context.

Ironically the Deloitte analysis which underpins the 6,000 figure was commissioned by NHS England (I think) based on research where Keogh was a signatory! SofS told journalists that he'd obtained figure from NHS England (true I suspect). Efforts by [redacted] and me to persuade NHS England to publish an adhoc statement to account for the 6,000 figure were fruitless. [redacted] then very helpfully emerged with the one pager which we in DH were invited to use and publish but confirmed NHS England would not publish. (Personally I recognise that it was a DH Minister who made the speech, but the analysis source was NHS England's and I see joint accountability for the failure to advise SofS of distinction between 'internal' slide pack figures and 'published' research).

On point (ii) I agree that Full Fact language is clunky but not worth us disputing. The 'excess deaths' are a risk-based calculation of Sunday admission 30 day deaths compared to Wednesday admission 30 day deaths, having controlled for other factors. I do not comment on SofS's use of the figure or the advice he was given. (I have skim read analysis which supports the point that weekend admissions are riskier to patients but argues that the 7DS solution does not pass the NICE QALY threshold.)

However I don't see that UKSA need get involved with disputes over use of health research for purposes of health and clinical policy, still less that they refer such queries to statistical teams. I advise you accept [redacted] offer to respond to UKSA's further question – to timescales consistent with handling of the many other pieces of correspondence they receive on this issue (10 that people were pressing me on for publication of the 1 pager!).

[redacted]



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Health
[REDACTED]

Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: Mark Svenson
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

[REDACTED]

Thanks for directing me to the article.

Couple of minor points

- i) I've lost track of the order of events – did UKSA ask for clarification from NHS England or DH? I can't recall. The article reads slightly oddly in that it says UKSA asked for clarification from NHS England and then DH respond. I think it might be that Ed used my NHS England address but was writing to me as HoP??
- ii) The "every day lived up to Wednesdays" phrase is clunky – I think I know what they mean but is it not clear – I think they mean if every day had the same mortality rate as the Wednesday mortality rate – is that right as far as you understand it?

Mark Svenson
Head of Analytical Services (National)
Operational Information for Commissioning
Finance Directorate
NHS England
5E24 Quarry House | Quarry Hill | Leeds | LS2 7UE
[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:06
To: Svenson Mark (NHS ENGLAND)
Subject: FW: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Mark

Full Fact have published an update. Their article is balanced and acknowledges our response to the 'transparency' problem.

[REDACTED]



Department
of Health

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Department of Health
[REDACTED]

Follow us on Twitter @DHgovuk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2015 10:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Updated full fact article - 6,000 deaths figure

Dear All,

Please see updated FullFact article on 6,000 deaths figure following publication of additional material by DH last week. Thanks for your help in getting this prepared.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

https://fullfact.org/live/2015/aug/evidence_6000_deaths-47287



Department
of Health

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

@DeptHealthPress

For contact numbers of individual press officers, [click here](#)
For emergency out of hours queries, call [REDACTED]

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any reading, printing, storage, disclosure, copying or any other action taken in respect of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by using the reply function and then permanently delete what you have received.

Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with the Department of Health's policy on the use of electronic communications. For more information on the Department of Health's e-mail policy [click here](http://www.dh.gov.uk/terms)
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/terms>

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any reading, printing, storage, disclosure, copying or any other action taken in respect of this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by using the reply function and then permanently delete what you have received.

Incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are routinely monitored for compliance with the Department of Health's policy on the use of electronic communications. For more information on the Department of Health's e-mail policy click here
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/terms>

This message may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please inform the sender that you have received the message in error before deleting it. Please do not disclose, copy or distribute information in this e-mail or take any action in reliance on its contents: to do so is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

Thank you for your co-operation.

NHSmial is the secure email and directory service available for all NHS staff in England and Scotland
NHSmial is approved for exchanging patient data and other sensitive information with NHSmial and GSi recipients
NHSmial provides an email address for your career in the NHS and can be accessed anywhere

This email was scanned by the Symantec anti-virus service

In case of problems, please call your IT support helpdesk.
