

## Exploring the views and experiences of scientists working in the public eye on COVID-19 research.

### Topics to be explored

Below is a list of topics to be discussed. The topic guide will remain flexible with respect to what is of importance to participants.

1. **What does it mean for you to be a scientist working in the public eye on COVID-19?**
2. **Roles & responsibilities**  
**What additional roles or responsibilities have you taken on as a result of the pandemic and how have you found these?**  
How did the roles come about? What was your motivation for taking this role? How have you found the role in terms of what you initially expected?
3. **Experience of sharing evidence and informing policy**
  - i. *Informing and collaborating with policy makers*  
**How have you been involved in presenting evidence to inform policy and how have you found this?**
    - How have you found collaborating with government and policy organisations? How have these collaborations evolved over time?
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  - ii. *Informing the public:*  
How have you been involved in presenting scientific evidence to the public and how have you found this?
    - How has your role in informing the public about COVID-19 evolved over time?
    - How do you feel about how the press covers your scientific contributions?
    - How do you feel about sharing your scientific evidence on social media?
    - How do you feel about the way the government presents (your) scientific evidence to the public?
    - What kind of reactions have you received from the public? Have you received disturbing reactions or threats? How did you deal with this?
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  - iii. *Collaborating with other scientists*  
**Has COVID research led you to collaborate with new scientists and if so how have you found this?**
    - What has been going well? what has been more difficult in these collaborations?
    - How have these collaborations evolved over time?
    - Have you experienced tensions or conflicts with other researchers?
4. **Overall experience**
  - **How has your involvement in COVID-19 research and advising policy/government affected your professional life?**  
How do your COVID-19 roles and responsibilities impact your existing roles?
  - **How has your involvement in COVID-19 research and advising policy/government affected your personal life?** How have you dealt with that?

**5. Lessons learned**

**What have you learned from your experience of informing COVID policy? What do you think are the most important lessons from this experience?**

- If a new pandemic breaks out in the future, what should be done differently in terms of bringing scientists and policy makers together?

Concluding questions:

- Do you have any additional remarks?
- Is there something that you think we didn't cover that is relevant to this issue / topic?
- Is there someone else you think we should talk to?