# Cabinet Secretary Simon Case admits 'raw' criticism of Boris Johnson's government in Covid-19 Inquiry testimony



Cabinet Secretary Simon Case provided testimony to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, expressing that his WhatsApp messages, which were highly critical of Boris Johnson's government and its handling of the pandemic, were "raw, in-the-moment" reflections. Case acknowledged his deep frustration with the former prime minister's style of governance, describing Johnson's administration as "dysfunctional" and characterized by “toxic behavior.”

In messages from July 2020, prior to becoming Cabinet Secretary, Case described Johnson and his team as "basically feral" and remarked that Johnson's wife, Carrie, was "the real person in charge" at No. 10. During his testimony, Case noted that many of his comments in the messages were regrettable and required apologies. Case highlighted the immense pressures and the challenging working conditions faced by civil servants during the pandemic, which he said led to a lack of team spirit and a frustratingly disorganized response.

The inquiry, which began in June 2022, seeks to examine the government's preparedness and decision-making during the pandemic, with hearings set to continue until the summer of 2026. Case’s testimony concluded the second module of the inquiry, which focused on core UK decision-making and political governance during the pandemic.