# Sir Patrick Vallance Warns of Inevitable Future Pandemic and Urges UK Preparedness



Sir Patrick Vallance, the former chief scientific adviser to the UK government, has warned that another pandemic is "absolutely inevitable" and that Britain is not currently ready to handle it. Speaking at the Hay Festival in Powys on May 25, 2024, Vallance emphasized the need for the upcoming British government to prioritize pandemic preparedness, comparing it to the necessity of maintaining armed forces.

Vallance, who guided the UK through the COVID-19 pandemic alongside then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson, outlined the key areas that need improvement: better surveillance, faster diagnostic tests, rapid vaccine development, and quicker treatment methods. He noted that despite pointing out these needs to G7 leaders in 2021, they seem to have been neglected by 2023.

Highlighting the importance of continuous focus and attention on pandemic preparedness, Vallance endorsed the World Health Organization's push for the Pandemic Preparedness Treaty, which aims to foster collaboration among nations. He believes political will is crucial to driving such initiatives forward.

Vallance also commented on the recent announcement by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak regarding a general election, noting the necessity of accountability in the democratic system. He criticized Sunak's decision to make the announcement in poor conditions and mentioned incidents of chaotic government actions, emphasizing the need for a more competent system.