

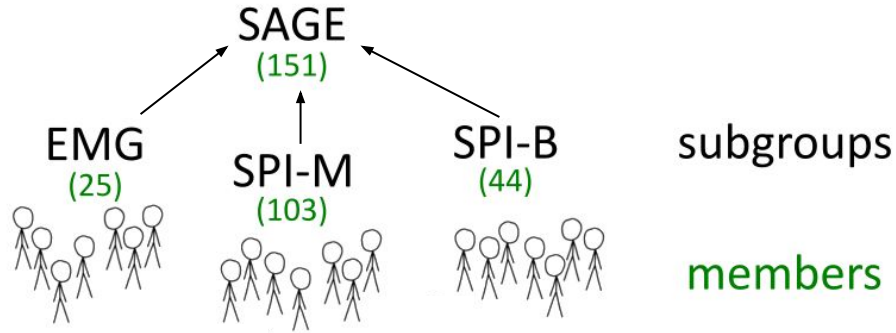
The SPI-M/SAGE Route into Policy: Reflections and Future Planning

Louise Dyson

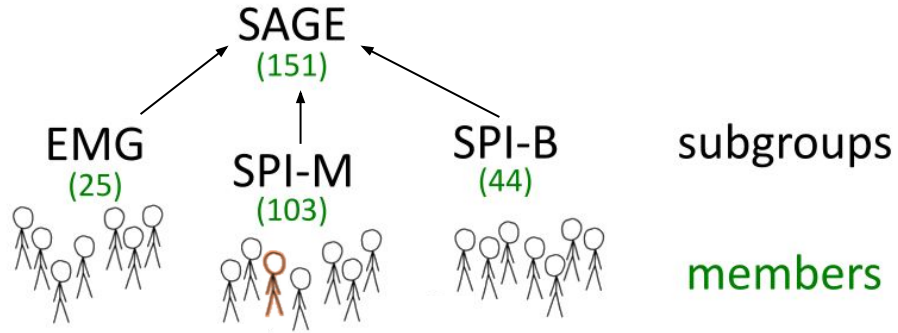
The SPI-M/SAGE Route into Policy: Reflections and Future Planning (a personal view)

Louise Dyson

Structure of the COVID science to policy path



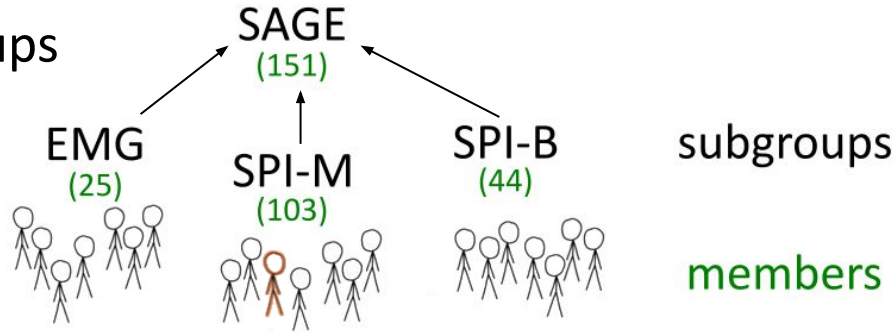
Structure of the COVID science to policy path



How SPI-M worked

SPI-M provided:

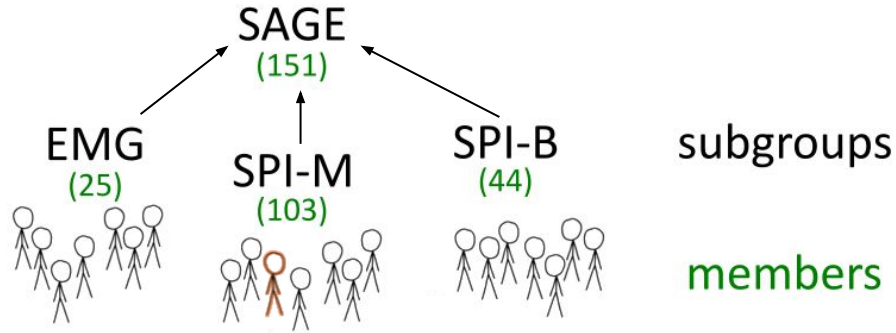
- Rapid responses to commissions
- Multiple independent groups
- Rapid peer review
- Consensus statements
- A route for non-commissioned insights



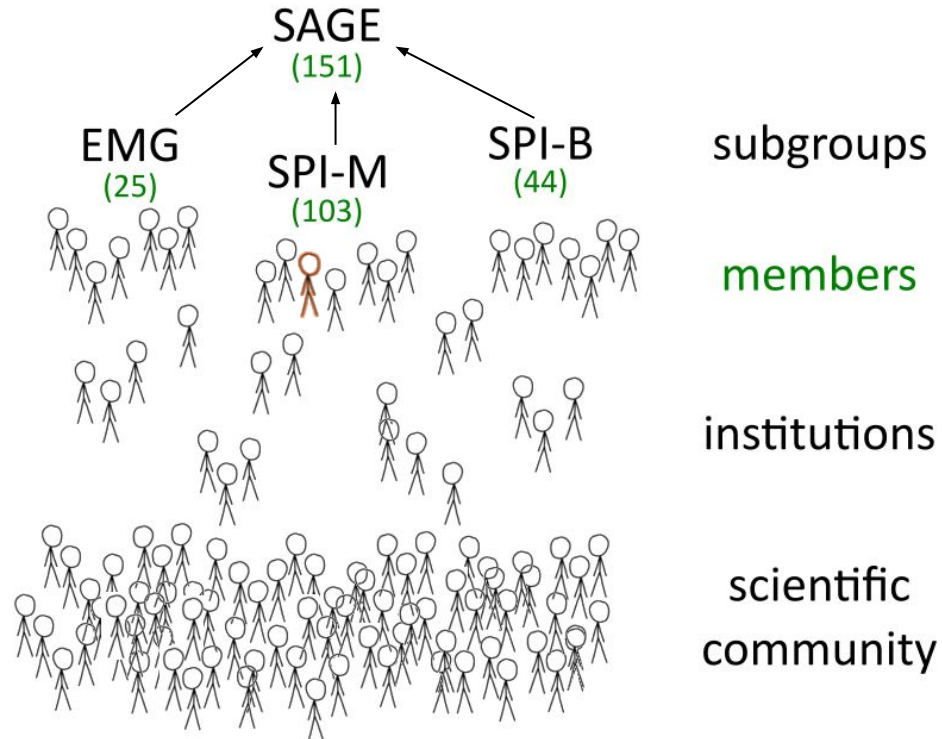
How SPI-M worked

Supported by:

- An incredible secretariat
- Data provision through UKHSA (PHE) and DSTL



A massive team effort

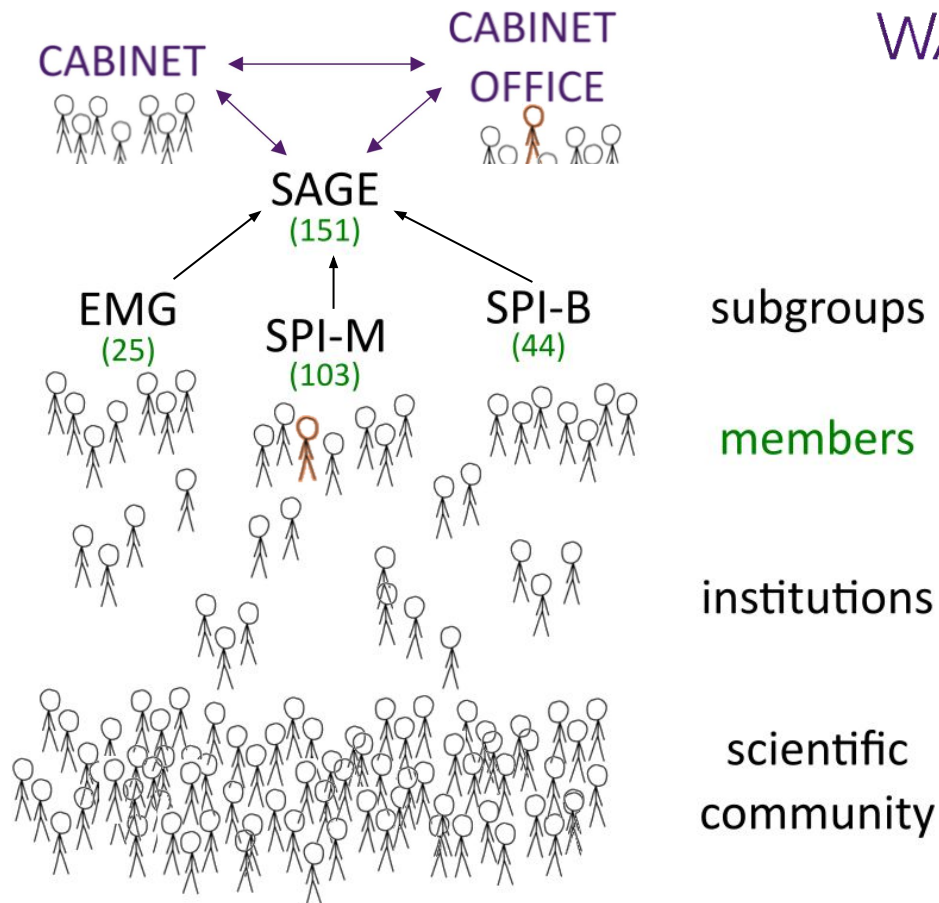


Lots of routes from SAGE and subgroups into policy:

- Chief Medical Officer (Chris Whitty) & Chief Scientific Officer (Patrick Vallance)
- Secretariat
- Observers
 - UKHSA (also some participants)
 - Cabinet office
 - Treasury
 - No. 10
 - Devolved administrations

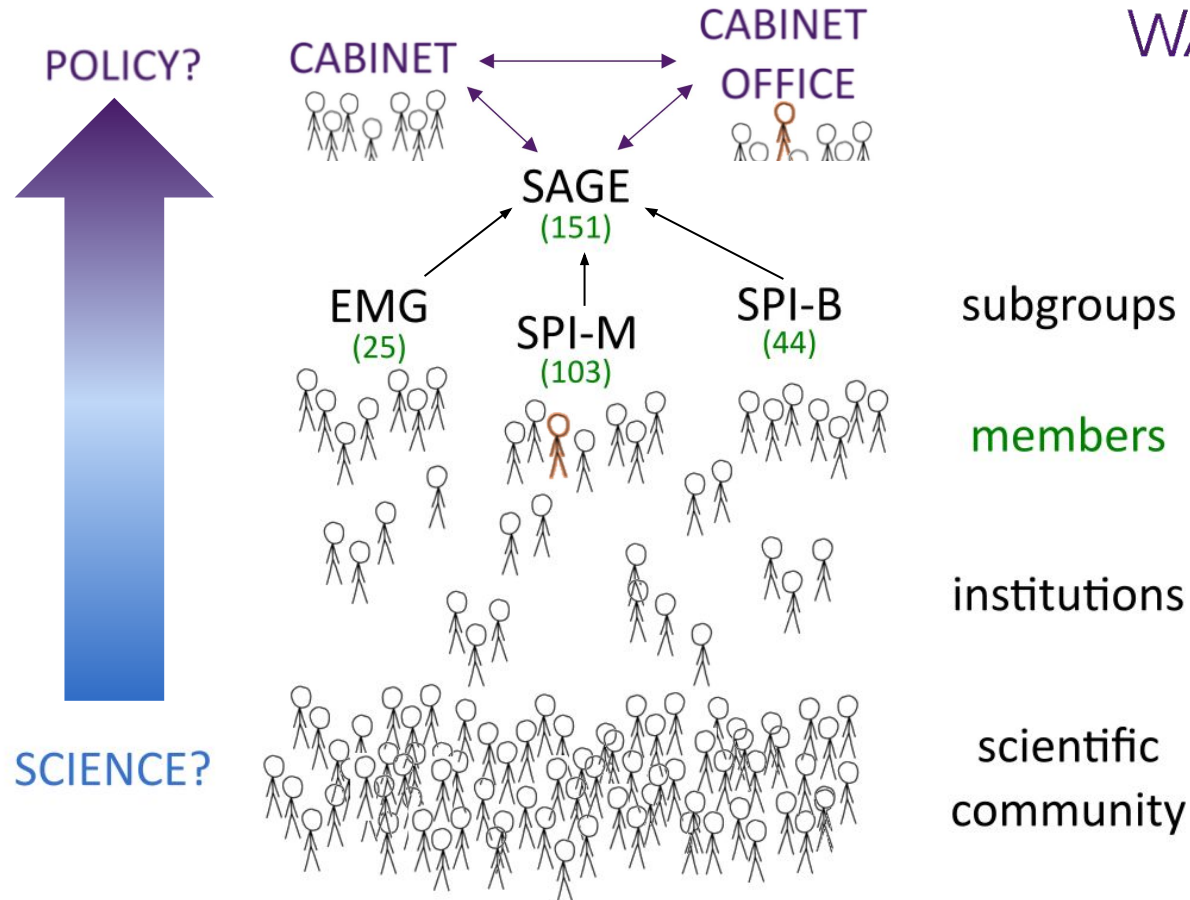
Feeding into policy

WARWICK



When does science become policy?

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SPI-M provided (a non-exhaustive list!):

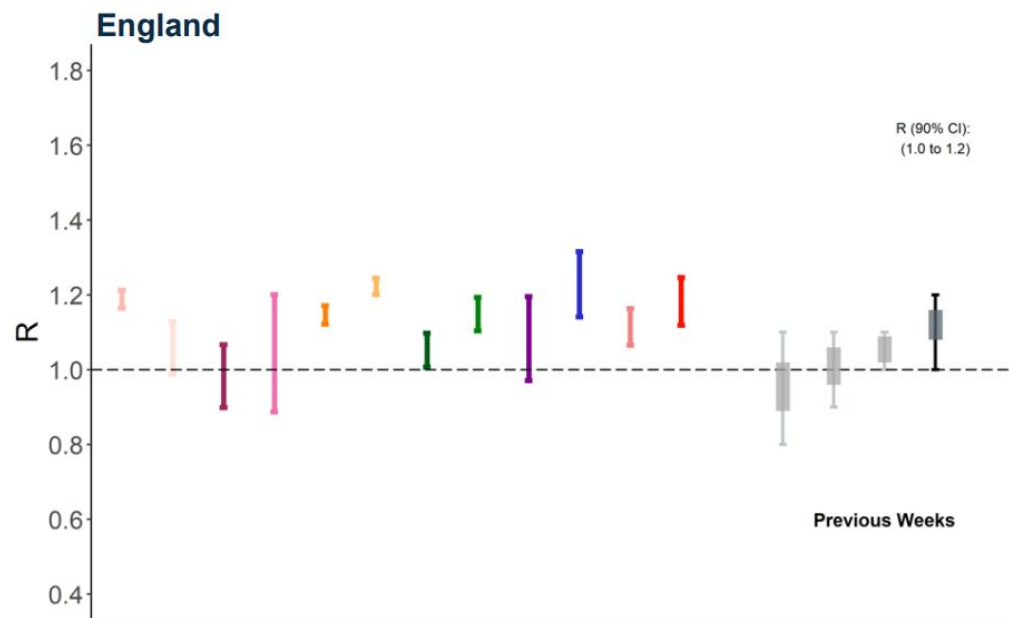
- Rapid responses to commissions
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- R values
- Medium term projections
- 8 week scenarios
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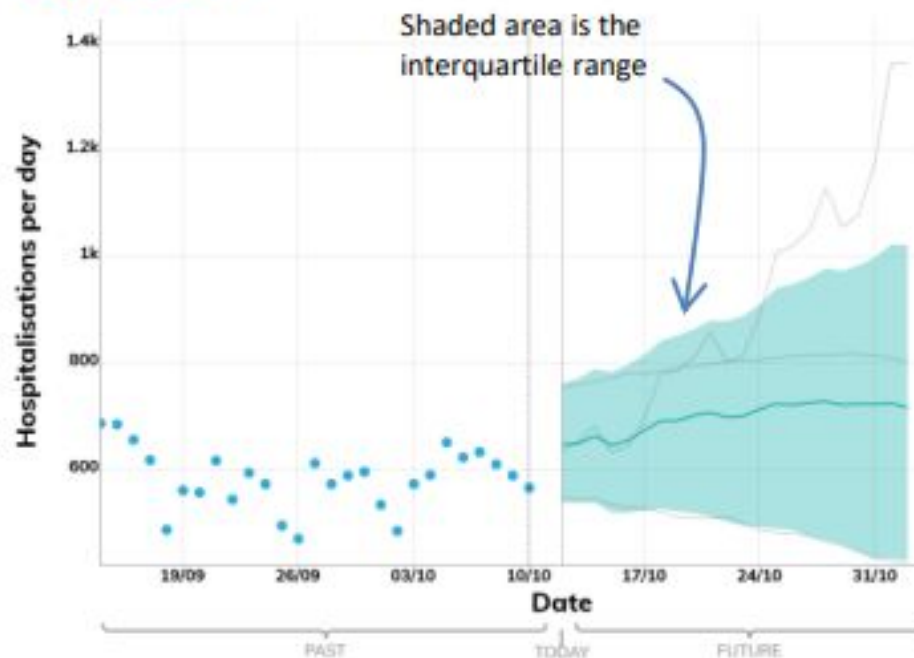


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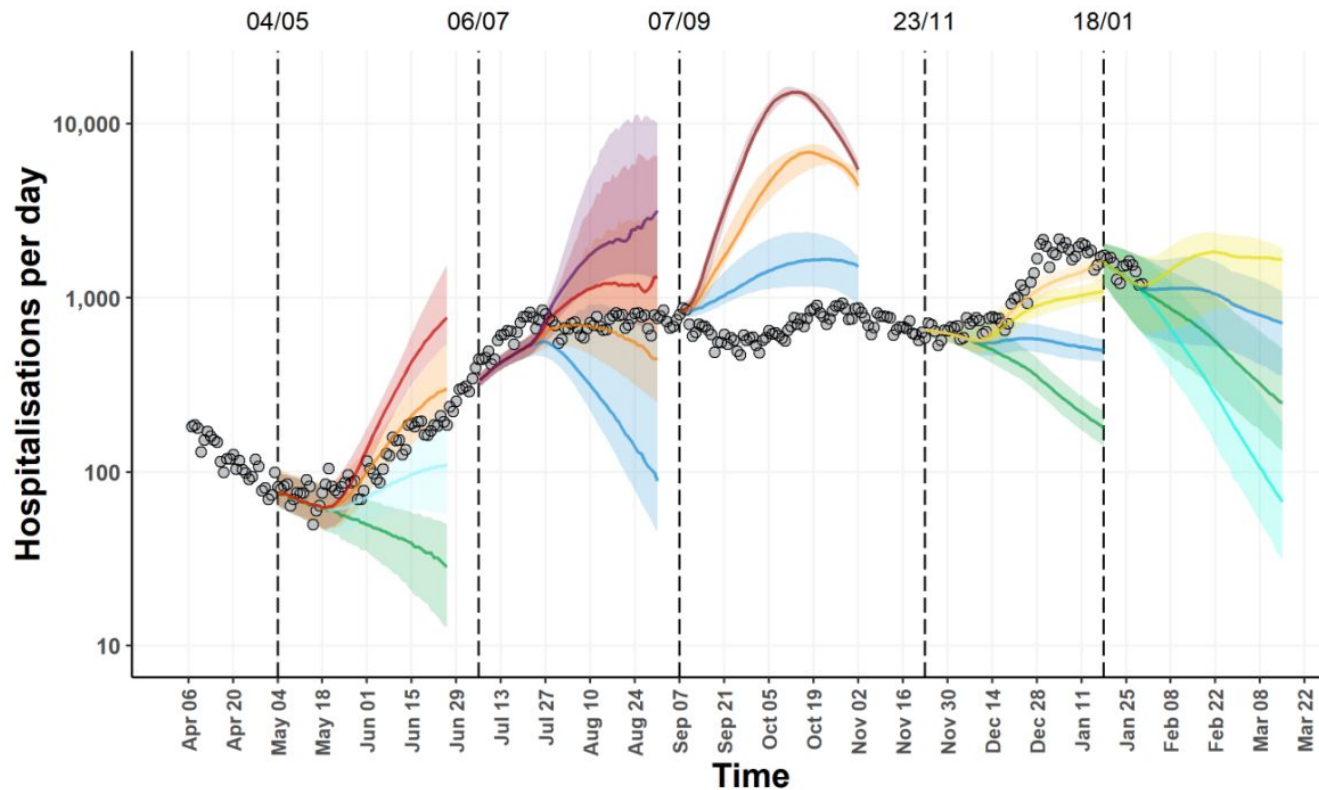
ENGLAND



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WARWICK

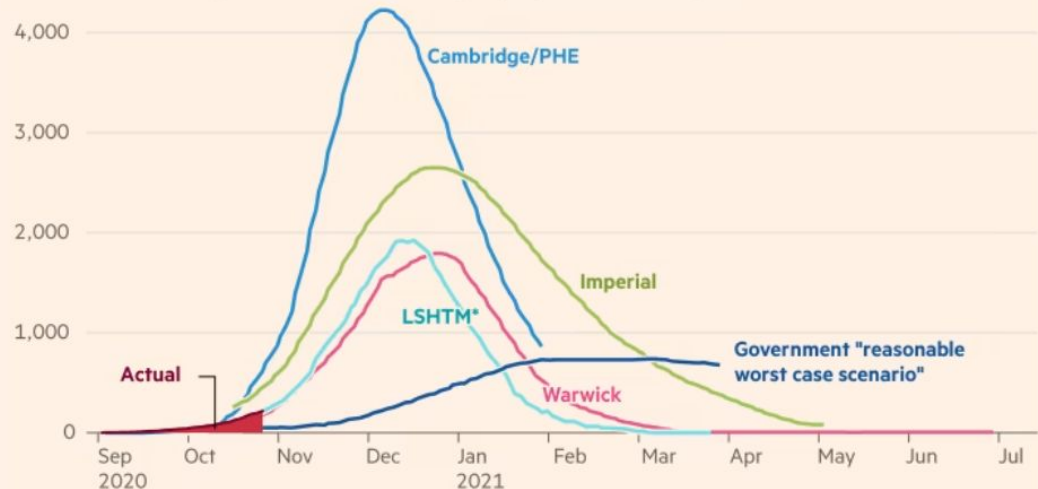


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Projections of the autumn/winter death toll vary wildly, and actual numbers have already exceeded the government's own "worst case scenario"

Forecasts of UK daily deaths from different groups, published in August



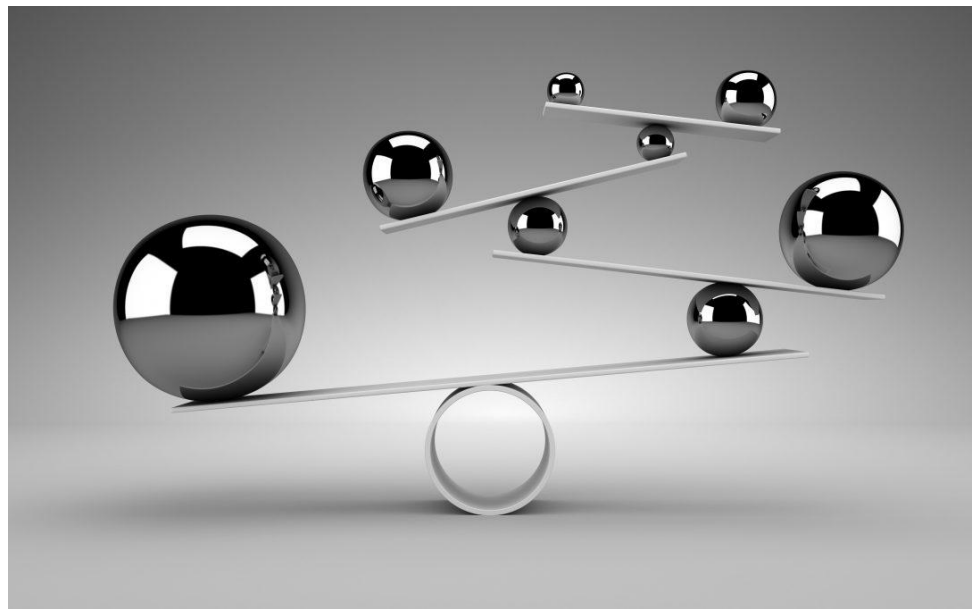
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Tensions

There are inherent tensions in the system to be balanced:

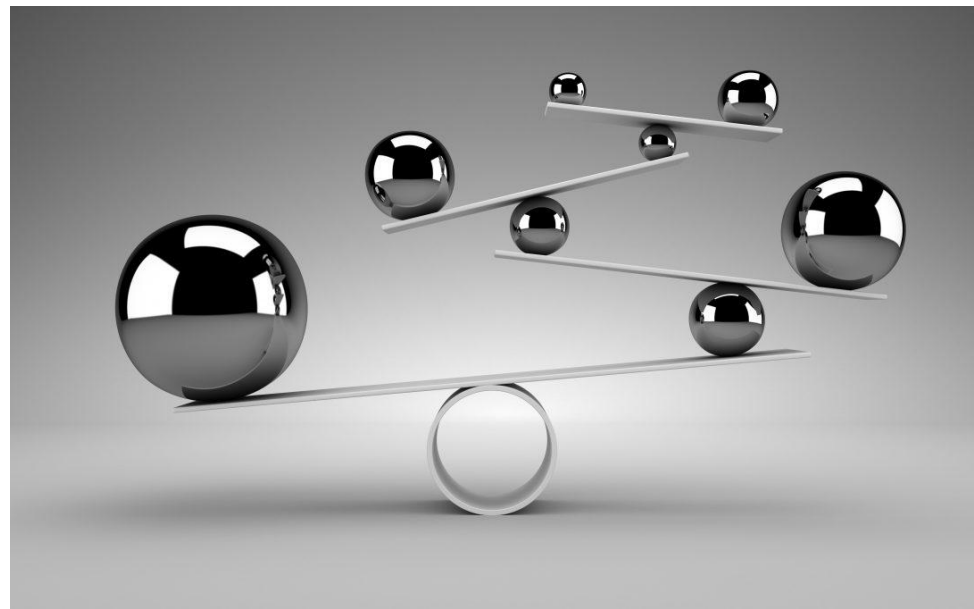
- Privacy concerns vs data requirements
- Rapid communication vs clarity and accuracy
- Short deadlines vs careful science
- Open science vs information control



Tensions

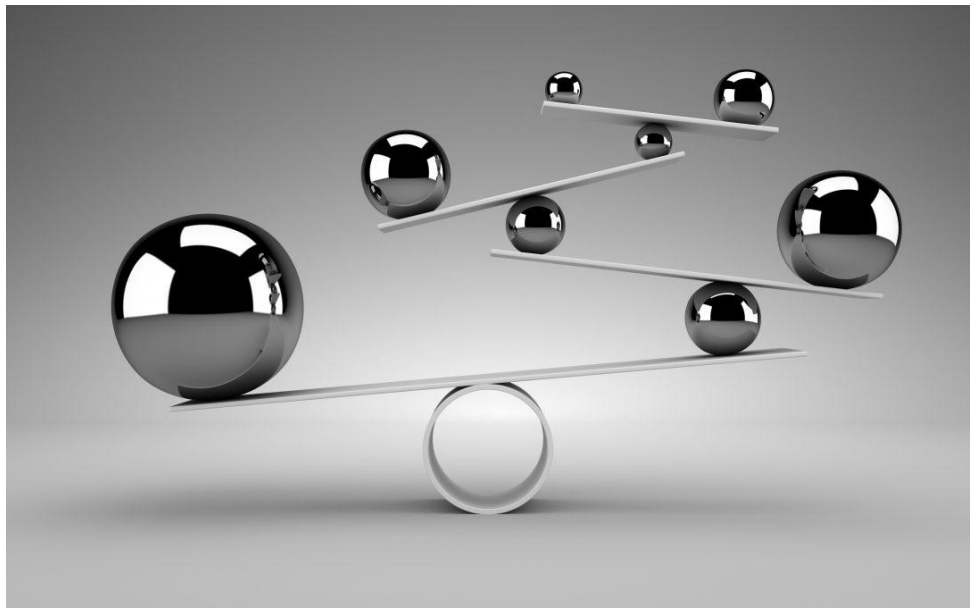
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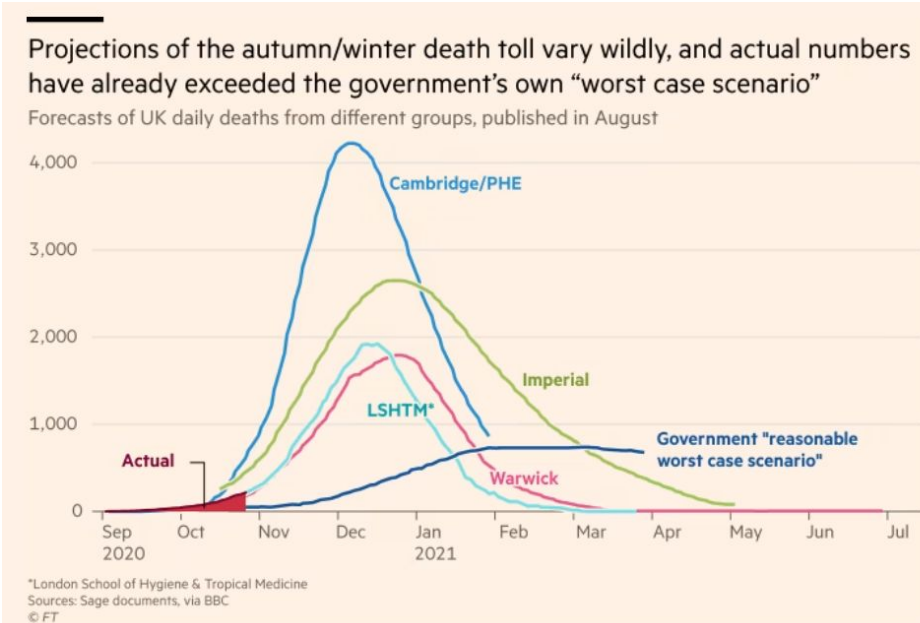
Short deadlines vs careful science

- Multiple groups
 - Works better when everyone gets the same data
 - Setting up data pipelines in advance as much as possible
 - Needs the existence of multiple groups
- Multiple people within each group
- Communication of uncertainty
 - Structural as well as parameter uncertainty



Open science vs information control

- Top-down approaches are difficult to do good science in
- Hard to see the overall picture
- Need feedback both ways to give the best advice
- Need to show policy-makers that's necessary
- How to integrate different factors more effectively?
 - E.g. changing economic climate affects the epidemiology



A team effort!



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Laura Guzmán Rincón
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