

## 2. Intro on Independent SAGE and questions

Zack King introduced the work of Independent SAGE (iSAGE) to date. This is based on informal meetings of the main group who, to date have produced four reports, the latest of these being on the testing process. The next focus is likely to be on BAME issues. Additionally, iSAGE has used its media contacts to conduct media events and public consultations. Our new group can feed into the work of iSAGE in a number of ways:

- Through adding a behavioural science dimension to iSAGE papers
- Through producing our own papers and reports, but discussing them with the overall group and publish under the aegis of iSAGE.
- Through conducting our own media and public events, but involving members of iSAGE (particularly Sir David King) on them

In terms of process, our group will meet separately and feed into iSAGE through Susan Michie and Steve Reicher who currently belong to the main group. However the identity of those in the main group is open to discussion in future meetings.

On Thu, 21 May 2020 at 09:38, Allyson Pollock [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear All,

I confess to being a bit surprised by the crowdfunding proposal. I am uneasy about crowd funding, especially when there are so many people on furlough and volunteers who would like to help. My own preference would be to use volunteers.

When we took the JR against the government we set out exactly what we needed money for and how much everything would cost and updated the public in great detail and we never raised more than we needed- we stopped every time we hit our target and published detailed account of how we spent the money. - but then we needed expensive lawyers

The public are very hard pressed at the moment and amidst growing poverty and unemployment I dont feel easy about raising money and it chanegs the basis of our effort.

It would be good to explore the volunteer route as some of my young colleagues are on furlough and as Martin says there are lots of volunteers. I would be happy to help support and pay for an editor.

On 24 May 2020, at 23:52, Allyson Pollock [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Dave,

Thanks for your email.

Here are my concerns and questions re crowdfunding.

First I confess to being a bit surprised by the crowd funding proposal, we haven't yet discussed the pros and cons and it wasn't the basis upon which we were invited.

Before we decide anything, surely we need to understand what we need the money for and how much and for how long and exactly who for? We have already decided to recruit RAs and people on furlough and volunteers.

Everyone on the committee is in employment and some of us are on very good salaries. So, should we not be contributing if we need to, what we can afford, once we have the answers to the questions, that would be public spirited and in the spirit of what we are doing.

The public are very hard pressed at the moment and I don't feel at all comfortable crowdfunding - there are other issues - but these are secondary to the key questions.

I am very happy to make a financial contribution.

**From:** Dave King  
**Sent:** 25 May 2020 11:19  
**To:** Allyson Pollock  
**Cc:** Carole Cadwalladr ; Zack King  
**Subject:** Re: crowdfunding

Dear Allyson,

Now I understand your position, and I respect it. We are all of us, on the Indi SAGE, working *pro bono*, and we must make it clear that there is no intention at all to change that. Our integrity and commitment can be measured by this fact.

But we do have expenses. Zack for example himself is working full-time for First Light, and the amount of time he is putting in requires that his company must invoice us. The very polished reports 1 and 2 have also cost money already in order to get them produced. There is quite a bit of professional expertise outside the Committee membership that needs to be able to invoice for their work. Carole is in a better position than me to set this out for you.

You have generously offered to contribute, and I and at least one other have already done so, but I think that it would be better if we are to continue - and the recent actions of the PM and his adviser suggests that we are needed more now - to have a small pot of money to draw on, fully accountable of course.

**From:** Carole Cadwalladr

**Sent:** 21 May 2020 10:13

**To:** Allyson Pollock ; Dave King ; Zack King ; Costello, Anthony

**Cc:** Pagel, Christina

**Subject:** Re: Crowd funding

Hi Allyson,

Thanks for this note. I've cc-ed Dave, Zack and Anthony in who were part of earlier discussions.

Your concerns are very valid and I understand where you are coming from.

The effort has been volunteer-led. But you won't be aware of the behind-the-scenes work that has been involved in getting the project this far & some of the unavoidable expense involved particularly in handling the media.