

As promised, we have had a think about our top priorities from the PFRB programme using a risk-based approach of what we think will make the most impact to our overall preparedness for pan flu. In our view, finalising the Bill and issuing the new excess deaths framework are key. This is in part driven by the fact that we would put ourselves at least a year back, particularly on the latter, if we didn't push to get these across the line now. The sector resilience piece should also continue, though this is moving into BAU territory for us increasingly.

Some of the key points we would be keen to discuss next week are:

- The DHSC top priorities for enhancing pandemic influenza preparedness over the next 6 months and specifically your key priorities within the agreed PFRB work programme. What is your risk based rationale for that suggested prioritisation? I think we collectively agree that we need to make sure that the important is not crowded out by the urgent.
- The relative priority of the 2011 Strategy refresh.
- Reaching a joint understanding on how we are going to resource joint projects e.g. the Bill. On the Bill, we are happy to continue to support and drive forward the Devolved Admin piece and also corralling OGDs – DfE in particular. We are also happy to continue to own things like the High-level Stakeholder and Handling Plan. On the other supporting documents and PPM, we will need to agree a sensible split but we will need it to be a shared DHSC / CCS endeavour to get this across the line. As discussed some months ago we would expect DHSC to act as Bill Manager and lead the delivery of Bill documentation, and ensure the smooth liaison between departments and those drafting the Bill.
- Messaging to other Departments (including the Devolved Admins) if we are to change our prioritisation of PFRB work.
- Messages to DHSC / CO Ministers and in particular CDL as chair of NSC (THRC) given there are clear risks associated with not taking forward the PFRB programme. Depending on where we come out on this, we will need to think how and when we put advice to Ministers, particularly given we are give or take 2 years on from Cygnus and 6 months away from the NSC (THRC) 2 year anniversary.

The above list is not exhaustive and as the Lead Government Department for the risk, we are really keen to make sure we focus on what matters most to you and have an honest conversation in that context.

Best wishes

Katharine



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