

C-19: Governance and Programmes

My letter of 16 March set out the overall governance for the Government's campaign to address the Covid-19 pandemic. Overseeing the response is the C-19 Strategy Group, chaired by the Prime Minister (Secretary: Mark Sweeney). As you know this group is supported by the four Ministerial Implementation Groups (MIGs):

- Health & Social Care: Chair: Matt Hancock. Vice-Chair: Robert Jenrick. Secretary: Simon Ridley.
- General Public Services: Chair: Michael Gove. Vice-Chair: Steve Barclay. Secretary: Jess Glover.
- Economy & Business: Chair: Rishi Sunak. Vice-Chair: Alok Sharma. Secretary: Jonathan Black.
- International: Chair: Dominic Raab. Vice-Chair: Anne-Marie Trevelyan. Secretary: David Quarrey.

The MIGs all have the status of Cabinet Committees. They are therefore responsible for collective agreement and implementation in their areas of responsibility. The Prime Minister chairs the UK COBR(M) as required. I also chair an Officials' Group in support of the ministerial committees.

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In order to support the delivery of these work programmes, a programme management office (PMO) has been established within the wider central Secretariat Strategy Team, overseen at DG level by Mark Sweeney. The PMO will act as one team with the Secretariat for each MIG and will work closely with your teams to ensure clear delivery plans are in place for each of the priority COVID-related workstreams, each with clear SRO leadership, annexed to this letter (and for further workstreams as they are established) and to monitor progress. Maintaining an overview of delivery is critical to supporting our response as a whole. The Secretariat for each MIG is in touch with departments to establish the current planning baseline, and to provide your teams with direct support where required.

Each of these workstreams is vital to the overall effort and strategy, and all will need to be taken forward in parallel. We are applying Fusion principles to this work. Each SRO will have the Prime Minister's full authority to deliver their

programmes and so all colleagues working as part of their team, regardless of their rank, position or department, are directly accountable to them for delivery rather than simply through their departmental hierarchy.

These programmes must deliver for all our citizens in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our citizens should experience a coherent Government response to Covid-19 wherever they are in the UK. Departments should consider how the implementation of policy will work across the four nations where aspects of the response are reserved, and engage closely with the Devolved Administrations where they are devolved. Officials should also work closely with relevant devolution desk leads in the C-19 Secretariat.

I continue to be grateful for the way in which the whole Civil Service has pulled together in these difficult times both to support DHSC and to lead on different aspects of the Covid-19 challenge. We will need to go on doing so in the coming period to protect our country and citizens from Covid-19.

MARK SEDWILL