Message

From: Evans, Carys (Office of the First Minister) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DBBEE30FD8EA42C8B830FA0FA2FD6C49-EVANS, CARY]

Sent: 17/07/2020 12:04:32

To: PS FirstMinister [ps.firstminister@gov.wales]; Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General)

[desmond.clifford@gov.wales]; Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser) [jane.runeckles@gov.wales]

Subject: Call with CDL 17 July - summary

Des/Jane – summary of today's call, grateful for any amends.

Thanks Carys

FM call with CDL and DAs 17 July

On the call: FM, Michael Gove, John Swinney and Arlene Foster (?Michelle O'Neill) plus SofS Wales (and other territorials?).

(Due to switchboard problems we joined the call about 10 minutes in at the tail end of a discussion about the quarantine regs and MG emphasising the need for the countries risk criteria to inspire the confidence of the DAs.)

MG: PM will be publishing this morning UKG's 'next chapter in our plan to rebuild' document which has been sent to us (*received 15 mins before the meeting*). Separately they will be publishing their Contain Framework which will set out learning from Leicester outbreak, and say more on testing. They are reviewing their working from home framework with a view to enabling return to office and will be looking again at the social distancing protocols in the autumn. Focused also on readiness for winter - PM will announce an extra £3billion for the NHS – with Barnett consequentials - to support this.

FM: only had time for quick scan of the document. It mixes up UK and England in a number of places - in some parts there is clarity that it applies only to England, in others there is confusion eg numbers dying from Covid, references to vaccination, numbers in hospital etc, are all England references. Once again, plea for clarity that when the PM speaks he makes clear when the actions he is announcing are England only measures.

Risk of transmission of virus from England to Wales – underlines the importance of the Joint Bio security Centre. In last Monday's call he asked for Gove's help in getting over the line with a genuinely joint process – reaffirmed importance of this. We are keen to learn from the pilots mentioned in the document, and to share our experience of eg schools have been open for past 3 weeks.

On working from home, our message would not be the same as the UKG – we are keen to maintain home working because of its benefits in reducing risk of transmission as well as meeting wider objectives of reducing pollution etc.

MG- completely understand concern re clarity of messaging and in the document, produced very quickly, will underline with the team. Will reinforce to Matt Hancock importance of agreement on JBC, and make the offer of shared learning on schools to Gavin Williamson. Happy to respond to any other queries.

Carys Evans

Prif Ysgrifennydd Preifat Prif Weinidog Cymru Principal Private Secretary First Minister of Wales