

Message

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Subject: READOUT Friday Bilat on NPI easements *no actions for teams just for info only*

PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD

Following the inconclusive strategy meeting the PM/Cx met and discussed plan for NPI easements on Friday. No other minister included – shows the strength of the Cx’s voice in these discussions.

I didn’t commission briefing as the arguments are well established now but in case helpful, as supporting docs he used: Vanessa’s SAGE readout (Vanessa – these are super helpful so pls keep them coming and thanks for doing impromptu call...which cx is massive fan of!), note on 1-2m guidance which Jonny and team prepared for the Small Group, the international benchmarking table (which we take to most meetings now). Stuart had also shared a hard copy of Simon Case’s note to the PM.

The discussion was as expected, but interesting to pull out: i) on the comms side there is a lot of concern that the public are concerned about easing the national lockdown, but the PM/CX both agreed that to govern is to lead and at times we can’t always follow public opinion – you need to shape it ii) clearly SAGE continues to be a significant and important input but the framing of the discussion has moved to be far more about taking everything in the round iii) there was consensus around the need to move from national to local (linked to JCB operation).

It is also notable that the PM was also pushing his team on outdoor hospitality, where his team was far more cautious. The Cx is not supportive of prioritising social easements but was willing to compromise on that to secure agreement on economic easements. The Cx purposefully did not push on schools but used his political capital on hospitality – his view is that even if we pushed for what he originally wanted it is not deliverable anyway and therefore best approach is to offer it up as an area where he is willing to compromise.

The bottom line thought is that the **following was agreed for announcement on Tuesday** (pls protect given sensitivity etc).

- **Opening non-essential retail from 15 June**
- From 15th June we will also:
 - o Permit private prayer in places of
 - o **permit indoor household bubbles for two households of any size.** This will be a starting point and can build on this over time. (Note: the cx does not support this but he was willing to accept it to secure position on outdoor hospitality set out below)
 - o permit outdoor attractions where users drive there and do not generally leave their vehicle (eg safari/drive in cinema)