

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). **NR** 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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)

- Can confirm that we indicate now, **we do not expect primary schools to open to all pupils before summer**, but there may be an opportunity for schools to invite more pupils at their discretion, if they have capacity within the current social distancing guidance; that we do not move the summer holidays – but instead focus on a serious programme of summer holiday catch up programme.
- **Confirm that we will open outdoor hospitality on [x June] date.** [Note: agreed this should be June but precise date was not agreed but the letter from the Cx proposed 22<sup>nd</sup> May and in the wash up I said there was some neatness to just opening it on 15<sup>th</sup> alongside outdoor retail, which Cx asked me specifically to do. In wash up also confirmed that we would publish guidance alongside announcement]
- Confirm that we will not
  - allow remaining outdoor ticketed attractions to open at this stage (this includes zoos – so note might come under pressure to do something here).
  - Enable larger gatherings to facilitate weddings in June.
  - Permit hospital visiting at this time until assessed risks properly.
  - Enable driving theory tests
- On **other closed sectors and close proximity settings** (aka hairdressers) will confirm that plan is on track, i.e. opening on 4<sup>th</sup> July. [In wash up there was a question about how Cx letter is consistent with phasing language in Roadmap – but given the plan presented is to open most on 4<sup>th</sup> July but then certain high risk settings later on – we should continue to make point that this is entirely consistent with phasing. Again in wash up I made point that accommodation etc in in our 4<sup>th</sup> July group.
- Confirm that MOJ will reopen 23 courts on w/c 8 June.
- Confirm that we will permit additional healthcare (optical services etc) in line with previous announcements on dentistry
- Note that we will **need to announce next steps on shielding w/c 15<sup>th</sup> June**. [Paper to PM says: advice from CMO on what restrictions can be relaxed/should remain in place and accompanied by announcement on the *support package available*]

Dan/Jonny/I then jumped on phone and did a “wash up” (nothing like a pre meeting, a meeting, and then a post meeting to agree something that we all thought we had agreed weeks ago – but there you go). Some of the additional colour is captured above.

### Next Steps

- I am going to email Imran / Simon Case to: confirm what was agreed, share outdoor guidance and bit of detail, confirm that BEIS should crack on with other closed sector consultation.
- Sean I know that you are still doing a lot with DfE on schools to keep pressure on delivery – but I think we should now let DfE crack on with plan above and more focus on keeping an eye on plans for Sept. Dan, **NR**/Jonny – I can see this is on agenda for COVID Strategy meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.
- On shielding – **NR** note point that expectations around support package continues. Let’s see what **NR** said was agreed on at Ops Committee – but as part of email above I am just going to be clear that our position is that we are not working on basis of further support.
- On Monday I am just going to check where No10 have got to and ensure on track for Tuesday. Until announced you never know!

Elizabeth

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