

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister

pmpost.ext@no10.gov.uk

12 May 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to set out again the case for a regular and reliable rhythm to engagement between all four governments of the UK in the weeks leading up to the next review of the coronavirus regulations. The more we are able to share information and perspectives the better, I believe, will be our ability to sustain common positions across the UK. I welcome the support you and the CDL have given to this in principle, but now we really do need to see that engagement carried out in practice.

In my view, over the last few days, all parts of the UK have moved together, taking the first cautious steps towards ending lockdown. Yet the public perception has been of a degree of confusion as to what applies to the UK and what applies in the devolved jurisdictions. I believe this might have been avoided, with better outcomes for all our administrations, through stronger and more systematic joint working in the period before decisions were made.

I am sure that we can improve on this as we plan for the next three week review. I ask that you invite the CDL to convene a four nation discussion this week, and then on a regular weekly cycle, to identify the key milestones and decisions, so that we can move forward in a better planned and coherent way. This will demonstrate the strength of a common four nations approach, while respecting the implementation of that approach in the different circumstances of each part of the UK..

I am copying this letter to the First Minister of Scotland and to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours sincerely

MARK DRAKEFORD