

Actions
Arising

The following actions arose from this meeting:

- The SECRETARIAT to schedule a discussion on policing tomorrow (18 March).
- The SECRETARIAT to update the list of priority issues in light of the discussion.
- ALL DEPARTMENTS to review their resilience plans and to bring issues to the Committee as appropriate.
- ALL DEPARTMENTS to consider what support they might need from Ministry of Defence (MoD) military planners and communicate that with MoD.

Decisions
Arising

The following decisions arose from this meeting:

- Metrics and data should be brought forward by Departments to assist committee decision making.
- The Committee agreed the proposals set out in the Cabinet Office procurement paper.

COVID-19
dashboard

The CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER said that the country was dealing with the biggest public health crisis since World War II, which would have significant effects on the economy and on critical public services. Departments had been working hard on the response. The Prime Minister had made an announcement the previous day on government reorganisation. There was a daily 9:15am Prime Ministerial meeting and COBR meetings would continue throughout the week including attendance from the Devolved Administrations and the Mayor of London. Below these sat four Cabinet Committees: the Health, Social Care and Shielding Committee chaired by the Health Secretary; the Business Response Committee chaired by the Chancellor; the International Committee chaired by the Foreign Secretary; and this Committee, which would look at how to maintain delivery of public services excluding

health and social care. There would be an overlap in the committees.

Continuing, the CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER said that a scratch list of priorities for discussion had been drafted. These would change according to events and feedback from departments. They were not intended to second-guess the work departments were already doing; the intention was to ensure all work was covered.

NATASHA GRANT, CIVIL CONTINGENCIES SECRETARIAT, said that the COVID-19 dashboard had been developed rapidly over the previous weekend to replace the cross-government Situation Report. The dashboard was better at presenting the indicators of COVID-19 for the UK, and highlighted key issues. There were still some gaps in data, such as the epidemic curve modelling, and some new data was being added to the dashboard, such as transport footfall. She asked that any feedback or information to be included be sent to the Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

Continuing, NATASHA GRANT said that the dashboard was designed to service the Prime Minister's daily strategy meeting and all four implementation groups. The version presented at the meeting had been issued the previous evening. It showed that the number of cases had risen to 30-40,000 in the UK based on modelling. There had not yet been an impact on policing, and the information on the Local Resilience Fora (LRFs) needed updating.

The HEALTH SECRETARY said that the dashboard was incredibly important so that the government could work in a coordinated way. There was some membership overlap between this committee and the committee he chaired, the Health, Social Care and Shielding Ministerial Implementation Group (HMIG), and there was a lot for all attendees to do at a rapid pace. The spread of COVID-19

- It was tempting for Ministers to only look at their own small areas, but the response needed to be fully cross-governmental; (Buckland)
- The priority list was a good start. Food and essential items should be linked to borders. The EU had announced a closure of the Schengen area, which was leading to a lot of work on supply chains and freight was slowing down. There was a concern about the commercial viability of certain ports; if ports had reduced capacity could there be a focus on only one or two?; (Priti Patel)
- The list of priorities was very good. There were some questions about where certain areas would sit. For example, Critical National Infrastructure could sit in this committee or the economy and business response committee, and some vulnerable groups had particular risks which should be looked at by this group as well as the HMIG, such as domestic violence victims and vulnerable children; (Munira Mirza)
- Issues with policy custody would have a knock-on impact onto the justice system; (Priti Patel)
- There was no formal dialogue on prison backfill requirements, with the exception of the Ministry of Justice who had been in contact. Military planners needed to hear more detail as soon as possible; (Heapey)
- The police and probation service needed to be resilient regarding offender management. There was work to be done to improve resilience in HMPPS and the courts, and these could be linked to LRFs. It was likely that the criminal justice system's Gold Command would be stood up the following day; (Buckland)
- LRFs were meetings, not organisations, so they should not be asked to do too much; (Jenrick)
- It would be useful to know how live issues from LRFs would be brought to the Committees; (Jenrick)