

## DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE

- Work is underway to develop external communications on safeguarding. This will cover individuals volunteering in their local communities during the social distancing, with advice on what activities can be undertaken without requiring a DBS check.
- A proposal to commence provisions within the 1997 Police Act to expedite DBS checks for returning health professionals and emergency volunteers has been agreed by Ministers, and will be managed by secondary legislation. This change will also make the checks free of charge.

## COMMUNICATIONS and SOCIAL MEDIA

### Sit Rep

#### **Press / Media**

- There is widespread coverage today of the Emergency Bill, with many outlets focusing on measures to give police new powers to shut down events and order people to go home to stop the spread of the disease. The Times reports that police will be able to detain and quarantine people with coronavirus for up to six weeks and issue fines of up to £1,000. We have provide lines on this to DHSC which make clear that restrictions can only be put in place by public health officials.
- Press Office is working with policy colleagues to expand the Home Office core Q&A.
- We are finalising a factsheet on DBS checks for volunteers, which will be published on gov.uk.
- Press Office is working with policy colleagues to provide guidance on how the impact of covid-19 is being managed in immigration removal centres.
- We are compiling a document which sets out examples of how police forces are supporting their local communities.

#### **Digital**

- Continuing to support OGDs
- Developing supportive police content

#### **Strat Comms**

##### *Stakeholder Coverage*

- The Domestic Abuse Commissioner released a statement about the dangers of self-isolation for victims of domestic abuse, calling for funding to support increased pressures on support services. The Victims Commissioner released a similar statement, and these concerns have been endorsed by Women's Aid, Respect, Hestia and the London Victims Commissioner. The DA Commissioner has gained assurances that helpline and refuge staff are considered key workers as per yesterday's guidance. We are working with policy and press teams to consider comms engagement and next steps with VAWG stakeholders.

#### **Internal Comms**

- Daily G7-SCS dial ins
- Daily SCS dial ins

#### **Europe and international Comms**

- Gov.uk page for visa applicants (in the UK and internationally) and travellers crossing borders in development
  - This will communicate in-country switching policy and changes to RTW / RTR checks when available
- Comms plan to support in-country visa switching policy will be sent to SpAds for approval today. This will include stakeholder comms and engagement in the UK and internationally. This will be delivered over the weekend and into Monday.
- We are working with visa commercial partners to align and quality assure customer comms on changes to the visa service.

### **Cabinet Office Communication Cell update, 20 March 2020 (AM): (selected content)**

#### **Domestic**