

our guidance to the sector we have been clear that learning time should not be diminished from September.

- They also discussed the epidemiological impact on some ways in which capacity on transport could be lifted, and what the understanding was of Scotland's plans for transport – to which SoS set out that broadly similar concerns on capacity in Scotland, but we've now secured funding to secure additional coaches to manage those children/students that would usually take public transport.
- PM set out need to have local plans on transport, and identifying hotspots / areas of concern so we can intervene and not let transport become a barrier for w/c 7th September when children return.
- On local tiers/lockdowns – there was broad consensus that nothing should be published that blurs/undermines the message that all children will be back. However, the committee agreed [in principle] that DfE dovetails into the work and publications being produced by the Joint Biosecurity Centre / DHSC.
- Facemasks – the were agreement to not change the position DfE have on facemasks at the moment.
- As the meeting was overrunning, there was not as substantive a discussion on some of the other points. However, SoS did also set out:
 - Devices – the steer was broadly that within existing funding we have set for this [£51.4m] – we should look to maximise the reserves for laptops/tablets.
 - *However, as per my point above – we are confirming with Cabinet Office what the final decision/readout was on this.*
 - Test and trace – SoS set out the necessity for education workforce and children to be a priority for testing – as it also helps significantly with building confidence.
 - Comms campaign – SoS set out that we have a targeted comms plan designed to reassure parents and children – which will be a national campaign.
- PM set out very clearly that nothing should be a barrier to full return in September, and that no one should get into the mentality of anything but full return. PM also set out that we need to reach out to everyone, build confidence and ensure we have plans in place where there is a shortfall on transport, and work with DHSC on how schools are managed in local lockdowns.

Monday 11/08 [final paper attached – attachment 3]

[This readout has been agreed with No.10.]

- The PM was clear that the overarching objective – which he will be holding Departments to account on – is that no child is prevented from attending school at the start of the new school year because of a lack of public transport.
- SoS presented the current understanding of the 'gap' between capacity and potential demand, which could be between 190,000 and 300,000 [range presented by Transport Secretary].
- There were two proposals presented – on a pupil priority hour on public transport, and a command and control structure, overseen by DfT and DfE, and with BEIS, MHCLG, MOD, HMT and CO support (including embedded staff where necessary).
- The PM agreed to both of these proposals in principle, and asked that Departments take these forward urgently to implement them.
- SoS set out that we had not yet modelled the impact the above measures would have on the 190,000-300,000 gap.
 - Following the meeting, the PM requested an urgent assessment of what the impact of the above measures was likely to be, what the remaining outstanding gap was, and how we were proposing to tackle that.
 - The gap needs to be brought down to zero (or ideally below zero) ahead of schools returning, with the new command structure to mop up issues that were unforeseen ahead of time. We should not be entering the new school year with expected demand above capacity.
 - The PM also asked that we get further advice on social distancing on buses (e.g. could this be relaxed a little during the pupil priority hour?). DfE to follow up with CMO/PHE.