

From: Name Redacted
Sent: 19 May 2020 20:38
To: Ali Picton; Jack Stenner; Nick Bowes; Leah Kreitzman; David Bellamy; Niran Mothada; Patrick Hennessy
Cc: Government Relations; Name Redacted
Subject: Internal note of SK/First Ministers call 19.5.20

Call with SK and the First Ministers of the devolved nations - 19.5.20

Government engagement

- All expressed concern that the government is not engaging sufficiently, despite promises made by the PM that we would be involved – feel there has been a deliberate and coordinated shift in their approach. NS noted that they had had a call with Gove on Sunday but were still not sighted sufficiently. MD: was keen to ensure we all maintain regular dialogue with Ministers – said it's important that we do, or we would end up scrabbling together a joint position without any real dialogue with Ministers before the next meeting of COBR – no date has been given for the next meeting, but NS was keen to push for one.
- **SK noted that we are engaging with government and have bi-laterals with a number of departments. Said we had been working closely with DfT on increasing the capacity on the transport network from 18 May, but without any warning No.10 encouraged more people back to work the week before when they dropped the stay at home message. Fortunately, we have not seen a marked increase in passenger numbers – up by approx. 7%. People are still cautious and despite the new stay alert messaging are continuing to work from home. He said expecting 1 June as the next phase of easing of restrictions in England. He noted No.10 probably want to move faster than the other nations are planning for and to be aware of this.**

Easing of restrictions

- NS said they were a little behind the other nations in what was currently allowed, but were reviewing their guidance and would make an announcement on Thursday, with the aim to revise their guidance on 28 May. MD said they were doing the same with regard to their review. In an IPSOS Mori poll it found in Wales people were still being cautious but what they were missing was interaction between family and friends, eg grandparents unable to see their grandchildren. MD said they were listening to the public and partners and would take this advice to their Cabinet next week. Along with advice from their CMO and CSO they would hope to reach an agreement so they could make a public announcement on Friday week. AF and MO'N said they were also looking at what could be reviewed, but agreed they too were being cautious.
- Was a discussion around being outdoors where the advice in England is different to the devolved nations. MO'N said their medical advisers warned against people mixing indoors - it was safer outdoors so long as there was no touching of shared surfaces. NS agreed and said that is why play parks are not open for example. SK noted that the guidance in England prohibited sitting in someone's back garden. NS said she wanted to increase outdoor interaction as far as they can, based on medical and scientific advice.

Joint Biosecurity Centre

- NS asked for peoples thoughts on the JBC. She said her thinking was that they should participate but had concerns with the governance structure, esp if this led to the outsourcing of decisions. She said she would share the model of governance they had put forward. AF said she had not seen any clarity on the governance either and that there has been very little contact or conversation since the government announced it was setting up the JBC. MD said they were in the same position - and if it was a joint board, 'joint' had to mean just that and involve all the administrations.

Summing up

- All agreed the need for regular dialogue as is helpful being close to what each of us are planning - noted there are some differences in approaches taken but helpful to have an understanding of each others plans as they develop. MD noted they were participating in a JMC meeting next week but **should try and speak again as a group next week too.**

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