

## TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		FM/dFM/Prime Minister		
DATE:	13 Aug 2020	NOTE WRITTEN BY:		
		Deirdre Griffith		
VENUE:	Hillsborough Castle			FM Advisers: Philip Weir dFM Advisers: John Loughran
<p><b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b> First Minister and deputy First Minister</p> <p>John Loughran, Special Adviser dFM</p> <p>Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM</p> <p>Boris Johnston, Prime Minister</p> <p>Brandon Lewis, SOS NI</p> <p>Madelaine Alessandri, NIO</p> <p>Plus two from No 10 ( <b>NR</b> + 1 other)</p>				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>The Prime Minister apologised that he would not be able to attend funeral of <b>John Hume</b> – his passing felt like the end of an era.</p> <p>On <b>Covid</b> PM reflected on increase in R number in NI but that community transmission was low; UK was working with Dublin; messaging changing on facemasks; good adherence in shops and on public transport.</p> <p>dFM indicated that schools were a priority. FM also reflected that by 1 Sept all children would be back in school and raised the financial concern of “wet “pubs.</p> <p>PM indicated that loans and other support in place including furlough. SOS had met with Colin Neill (Hospitality Ulster) to discuss concerns.</p> <p>FM explained that TEO had announced the establishment of a High Street Task Force with the aim to get people back to high streets with increased footfall.</p> <p>PM indicated that changes were ongoing and that he was interested to contribute. SOS indicated that changes to create footfall in coffee shops helpful.</p> <p>dFM have had a recent NSMC meeting and at BIC can discuss what is coming next.</p> <p>PM – keen for E/W co-operation – open and receptive.</p> <p>Further discussion that R not a good indicator, clusters and testing, test and trace.</p> <p>PM indicated that he will do what is needed.</p>		

	<p>FM indicated that there had been good engagement with UK Ministers and SOS referenced mtg with ROI government, dFM indicated that as all one island should be able to take advantage. PM positive – BIC good vehicle for that co-operation.</p> <p>On <b>Centenary</b> PM was aware that there would be different approaches. dFM indicated that it will be a sensitive issue for republicans-nationalist narrative needs to be reflected. FM was looking forward to it in a positive way.</p> <p>On the <b>Economy</b> PM indicated that there was an amazing future with 2 key areas (1) tech and cyber and (2) green technology. Need to consider how to stimulate and create employment for young people.</p> <p>On <b>Brexit</b> dFM noted that team update us regularly and PM indicated that need to maintain an open border and keep flow of goods and maintain unfettered access to the rest of the UK. Protocol does that whatever happens he will not delay. FM indicated that practical answers were needed. The UKG portal must link through to NI Direct PM noted that NI is part of customs territory and part of FTAs. SOS noted that he had had business engagement and Rules of Origin were an issue. FM reflected concerns of red meat sector about a back door to the mainland and the amount of dairy processing undertaken in ROI. There was a complicated supply chain. dFM indicated that certainty was wanted with no cliff edges. PM expected the issues to be resolved/</p> <p>dFM raised <b>Legacy</b> – the issue was causing political difficulty. On Victims Pension a solution was needed to pay on a fair and inclusive basis. The PM agreed that there was a need to find a way. dFM went on to indicate that the pension needs to be inclusive. The draft guidance was discriminatory to the people she represented and that whilst she and FM had different views there was common ground. FM did not agree with dFM remarks on the guidance but indicated that she and dFM did agree that pension needs to be paid. SOS noted that £100 million in NDA was part of £3.6 billion but that no department was designated. FM said that people that live in GB will also benefit it is unfair for the NI Executive to pick up the bill.</p> <p>FM mentioned the good work locally on green hydrogen pumps.</p>
<b>ACTION POINTS:</b>	None