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- There would be some exceptional circumstances, likely to include the vulnerability of the patients or an imminent risk to their health, safety or security. These would be dependent on the NHS's ability to treat these patients.
14. Continuing the MINISTER OF STATE FOR ASIA AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE said that actions by other governments could put pressure on HMG to deviate from this approach, but noted that other G7 governments had agreed in principle to publish a joint policy. That effective communications around this were needed in order to retain discretion to respond.
15. In discussion the following points was made:
- The risk of possible business failures among airlines.
16. Responding, the MINISTER OF STATE FOR ASIA AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE said they were in touch with struggling airlines and agreed to discuss the matter with the Department for Transport.

Item 2: Non-pharmaceutical interventions

17. The CHAIR invited the Government Office for Science (GO Science) to give an update on non-pharmaceutical interventions. The DIRECTOR FOR GO SCIENCE said there were a number of interventions, including social distancing, closing schools, and discouraging mass gatherings, that could be taken to delay and flatten the peak of the outbreak of COVID-19. A range of different options were outlined, including pushing the peak out of the winter or simply flattening the peak. They had not yet looked at combinations of the interventions for modelling and this was being done in the coming days. There was a lot of uncertainty and the biggest variable that behavioural scientists had noted was compliance to the interventions. The public needed to understand why certain measures were taken in order to ensure more compliance. That different regions would be at different points of the curve at different times.
18. In discussion the following points were made:
- Economic modelling had been done and the biggest economic cost would be days lost. The UK was expected to lose 140 million days over a 30 week period.
 - That the measures were not additive and more work was needed to look at them as a package.
 - The analysis only looked at economic impacts and not social impacts. Work was being undertaken to look at social impacts.
 - There may be a gap between what the science says and what the public believes, for example around mass gatherings.
 - That analysis needs to be done on the implications of the social distancing of the over 65s and on social care for those at home and in primary care to understand how best to deploy resources.
 - The need to stick to the science and have clear public messaging to explain why actions are being taken.
 - The actions of the Republic of Ireland who need to be considered too.