

From: NR - HMT - NR <@hmtreasury.gov.uk>  
Sent: 19 October 2020 10:44

To: Patel, Kunal - HMT <Kunal.Patel@hmtreasury.gov.uk>

Cc: Perelman, Elizabeth - HMT <Elizabeth.Perelman@hmtreasury.gov.uk>; Booth-Smith, Liam - HMT <Liam.BoothSmith@hmtreasury.gov.uk>; Webb, Michael - HMT <Michael.Webb@hmtreasury.gov.uk>; Yorke, Rupert - HMT <Rupert.Yorke@hmtreasury.gov.uk>; Horowitz, Cass - HMT <Cass.Horowitz@hmtreasury.gov.uk>; Chesterfield, Nerissa - HMT <Nerissa.Chesterfield@hmtreasury.gov.uk>

Subject: urgent - Devo handling/JSS - for CX

Importance: High

KP – we got the attached from Wales over the weekend. The FM wants to stand up at lunchtime and announce a circuit breaker. As part of that he wants to say that we are bringing forward the JSS opening date to 1 Nov for Welsh biz/all biz. We can't do that as a matter of delivery (as well as policy), and furlough anyway runs to end Oct. Also this is the exact situ CX wanted to account for when considering making the scheme England only. As a handling point, officials recommend they/CST go back urgently to confirm that we can't do this. Bullets recommending this below. Can you flag to CX? Would like to get his cover as devo think likely to be quite a big story at least in Wales.

**Handling advice:**

We've had the attached letter from FM asking to bring forward the start of the JSS to align with Welsh circuit breaker. As you know, this is not possible and anyway goes to the point we previously discussed about DAs going further than HMG on NPIs. So the answer in policy/delivery terms is clear. There is urgency as the FM will be announcing circuit breaker this afternoon. Officials recommend they reach out at working level to set out the fact we cannot do what the FM is requesting, but want to check you're content.

In terms of handling, you have 2 options:

1. Don't reply and don't allow officials to respond at working level – risks looking like either UKG doesn't know the answer (i.e. might be able to do this but hasn't decided whether to do it yet) or is being unconstructive in preventing WG from taking important decisions based on complete information
2. Do reply – saying no. Which will make them cross, but if we can validate the position as practical rather than principled, that might help. And it does put the pressure back on the FM – does he want to do this knowing we won't bail it out? **This is the recommended option.**

Are you content with option 2, and **are you content for officials to go back at working level to set this out, in advance of sending CST letter at lunchtime.**

Chancellor's Office

Irrelevant & Sensitive

From: Patel, Kunal - HMT <Kunal.Patel@hmtreasury.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 October 2020 10:49

To: NR - HMT - NR <@hmtreasury.gov.uk>

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CX says no. They should be reminded furlough still running, as well as lines team suggests, etc.

Go with option 2.

thanks