

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 2 JULY 2020

MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO LINK

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Justice

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)
Secretary to the Executive
Head of Executive & Central Advisory Division TEO

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer
Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations, TEO

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired agenda item 1 – 4

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 40 Minutes of Executive meeting of 29 June 2020

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 29 June 2020 were agreed.

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AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister

2. The Minister of Health provided an update on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including the R rate on which a paper had been circulated to Ministers; zero COVID deaths for the 15th day; zero COVID patients in ICUs; reduced numbers of cases in hospitals; and the issue of new guidance in relation to visits to hospitals and care homes.
3. The deputy First Minister gave the Executive Committee an account of the circumstances relating to her attendance at the funeral of Mr Bobby Storey. The matter was then discussed by the Executive Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

4. The First Minister advised that the Action Log had been circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COVID-19 Management

E (20) 162 (C) COVID 19 – Indicative Timeline, Executive Ratifications

5. The First Minister introduced this paper:
6. The Executive:
 - i. noted the risk assessment at Annex A to Executive Memorandum E (20) 162 (C);
 - ii. ratified indicative dates for museums and galleries, bookmakers, close contact economy, and private clubs;

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- iii. noted the plan for bringing remaining restrictions to the Executive, as outlined at Annex B to the Executive paper; and
- iv. noted in particular the likely issues for the following week.

7. In response to queries raised by Ministers, it was agreed that guidance on other issues, including outdoor sports and activities, and religious ceremonies, would be brought to the Executive meeting of 6 July.

E (20) 161 (C) COVID 19: Requirements for Mandatory Face Coverings on Public Transport

8. The Minister for Infrastructure introduced this paper.
9. Following discussion, the Executive agreed:
- (i) to implement a mandatory requirement for face coverings on public transport from 10 July 2020, to be taken forward by means of an amendment to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020;
 - (ii) that the definition of public transport would include all services delivered under a Public Service Agreement (Translink), commercial bus service permit and Strangford and Rathlin ferries; and
 - (iii) that the cross departmental group on face coverings would engage with private operators to explore any extension of this requirement.

The deputy First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda.

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AGENDA ITEM 5

Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee

10. The Minister for Communities advised that she would make a statement to the Ad Hoc Committee on a number of matters in the following week.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Other Matters requiring Executive Agreement

11. There were no papers under this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Any other business

12. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

13. The next Executive meeting would take place on Monday 6 July 2020 at 2.00pm.

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