

OFFICIAL - EXECUTIVE

E (M) (20) 17

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 15 APRIL 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

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired items 1 – 4.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 15 Minutes of Executive meeting of 8 April 2020

E (M) (20) 16 Minutes of Executive meeting of 10 April 2020

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1. Consideration of the minutes of the Executive meetings of 8 April 2020 and 10 April 2020 was deferred to the Executive meeting of 17 April 2020.

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister

2. The Minister of Health provided updates on, and the Executive discussed, developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including the reporting of deaths, support for care homes, other supported living establishments, procurement and provision of Personal Protective Equipment, testing capacity and specialist drug supplies.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

Action Log

3. The First Minister advised that the Action Log from the previous Executive meeting had been circulated to Ministers.

AGENDA ITEM 4

CCG Sitrep

4. The Secretary to the Executive provided a read-out of the CCG meeting and the Situation Report which had been circulated to Ministers.
5. The Secretary to the Executive agreed that he would bring issues raised in discussion to the attention of the NI Central Control Hub for COVID-19.

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The deputy First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 5

COVID-19 Management

E (20) 55 (C) The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020 – Review

6. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
7. Following discussion, the Executive agreed that:
 - (i) the requirement in Regulation 2 (2) for a review of the Regulations had been met;
 - (ii) the Regulations should continue to be an appropriate response to the serious and imminent threat to public health which was posed by the incidence and spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in Northern Ireland;
 - (iii) the restrictions and requirements imposed by these Regulations continued to be proportionate to what they (the Regulations) sought to achieve, which was a public health response to that infectious disease threat; and
 - (iv) all of the restrictions and requirements set out in the Regulations continued to be necessary to prevent, protect against, control or provide a public health response to the incidence and spread of coronavirus infection in Northern Ireland.

COVID-19: Update on Funding Position 13 April 2020

8. The Minister of Finance briefed the Executive on the COVID-10 Funding Position at 13 April 2020, on which he had circulated a paper.

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COVID-19: Forward Look

9. The deputy First Minister advised that she and the First Minister had identified a number of areas for early consideration by the Executive, with relevant papers to be circulated by Departmental Ministers as appropriate.

10. The Executive agreed this approach and that papers on Shielding and on Food Security should be provided by the Minister for Communities and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs respectively for the Executive meeting of 17 April; and that papers on the pre-COVID baseline for the economy and on care homes should be provided by the Minister for the Economy and the Minister of Health respectively for the Executive meeting of 20 April.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee

11. The deputy First Minister advised of the statements to be given this week by Ministers to the Assembly Ad Hoc Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Matters requiring Executive agreement

12. There were no papers for this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Any Other Business

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Irrelevant & Sensitive

Business Support Grants Scheme

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Essential Workers List and Associated Guidance from Department for the Economy

16. The Minister for the Economy updated the Executive on matters relating to development of a list of Essential Workers, and advised that she would circulate a paper ahead of the Executive meeting of 17 April.

Taxis

17. The Minister for Infrastructure raised the issue of guidance for Taxi drivers in relation to COVID-19, and advised that she and the Minister for the Economy would engage further on the matter.

Date of next Meeting

18. The next meeting of the Executive would take place at 12.00 on Friday 17 April 2020.

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