

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 8 JUNE 2020

MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO LINK

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

Apologies: Minister for Communities

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
Prof Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser

INTRODUCTION

The deputy First Minister chaired items 1 – 4.

1. The deputy First Minister advised of apologies received from the Minister for Communities.
2. The deputy First Minister advised that the format for this meeting, and for future Executive meetings on Mondays, would comprise consideration of COVID and other Executive business, followed by a meeting of the Executive in EU Exit mode. Each meeting would have a separate agenda and secretariat.

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AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 33 Minutes of Executive meeting of 4 June 2020

3. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 4 June 2020 were agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister

4. The Minister of Health provided updates on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including reporting of zero deaths for two consecutive days; prevalence of COVID-19 in care homes; and testing of care home staff and residents. The Minister advised of his concern in relation to issues raised in media interviews about easements to the COVID-19 restrictions.
5. The Executive discussed and agreed on the need for a strategic, cohesive, collegiate approach in considering pandemic management and recovery issues and decision-making, so that all aspects, risks and potential impacts of decisions being considered could be explored and addressed. It was agreed that the Secretary to the Executive would work with Permanent Secretaries across all departments, with advice from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser, to develop a strategic recovery plan, with a paper to be brought to the Special Executive Meeting scheduled for 11 June.
6. The Executive also agreed that in the media activity to take place following the Executive meeting, Ministers would advise that, to allow businesses to plan ahead, the re-opening of small retail outlets could be permitted from Friday 12 June subject to confirmation at the Executive meeting on Thursday 11th.

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AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

Action Log/Sitrep

7. The deputy First Minister advised that the Action Log from the previous Executive meeting, and the SitRep, had been circulated to Ministers.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COVID-19 Management

E (20)133 (C)	Strategic Approach for Rebuilding Health and Social Care Services
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8. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
9. The Executive noted the action which the Minister of Health was taking to rebuild Health and Social Care (HSC) services following the initial surge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other COVID issues

Mandatory use of Face Coverings

10. The Minister for Infrastructure raised the issue of face coverings. It was agreed that the issue should be further considered at the Special Executive Meeting of 11 June 2020.

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Children's Playparks and Public Toilets

11. The Minister of Justice raised the varying approaches of Local Councils to opening of children's playparks and public toilets. It was agreed that the issue should be further considered at the Special Executive Meeting of 11 June 2020.

The First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 5

Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee

Irrelevant & Sensitive

AGENDA ITEM 6

Other matters requiring Executive Agreement

13. There were no papers for this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Any other business

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Date of next meeting

15. A Special Meeting of the Executive to consider COVID-19 Recovery would take place on Thursday 11 June 2020 from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon.

EU Exit format

16. The Executive meeting moved to EU Exit format.