

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 11 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
Ms Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations, TEO

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired agenda item 1

1. The First Minister advised of apologies received from the Minister for Communities.
2. The First Minister advised that the purpose of the meeting was to agree a strategic approach to decisions around easing of Coronavirus restrictions.
3. The Chief Scientific Adviser provided an update on the R rate, on which a slide presentation had been circulated, and on other key health factors

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relating to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was agreed that the information presented to the Executive could be published to increase public understanding of the progress of the pandemic, the measures being taken to mitigate against it, and the context in which Executive consideration of easements of restrictions was set. It was also agreed that public messaging around measures to prevent the spread of the virus should be consistently emphasised.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (20) 134 (C) Coronavirus, Restrictions Regulations - Executive Review Process

4. The First Minister introduced this paper.
5. Following detailed discussion, the Executive:
 - (i) noted the update on the epidemic;
 - (ii) noted the actions since the last meeting of the Executive;
 - (iii) agreed the way forward on the six proposed easements, including implementation dates, regulation changes and guidance;
 - (iv) noted the cumulative impact assessment; and
 - (v) noted next steps.
6. It was agreed that, during media engagement following the Executive meeting, reference would be made to enabling people who live alone to form a small support unit (a bubble) with one other household in Proposed Easement V of the Executive paper, but that reference to indoor visits by one household to another would be deferred; that the Minister of Health and the Minister of Justice would discuss the matter of household visits further; and that this would be considered further at the Executive meeting of 15 June.

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7. It was agreed that a cross-departmental approach to development of policy guidelines on use of face-coverings would be taken forward by the Minister for Infrastructure.
8. The Minister for the Economy advised that she would circulate a paper on the Tourism sector ahead of the Executive meeting of 15 June.
9. The Minister of Education advised that he would circulate a paper on Diversionary Activities for Young People ahead of the Executive meeting of 15 June.
10. It was agreed that the First Minister and deputy First Minister, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health would engage to consider childcare issues ahead of the next Executive meeting scheduled for Monday 15 June.

Any other business

Amnesty International/CAJ letter in relation to enforcement of COVID regulations

11. The Minister of Justice advised of correspondence she had received from Amnesty International and the Committee on the Administration of Justice in relation to enforcement powers regarding Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations, in the context of protest demonstrations which had taken place the previous weekend. It was agreed that the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health would engage on the matter.

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Airport

13. The Minister of Finance advised that he would circulate a paper in the following week on support for airports.

Date of next meeting

14. The next meeting of the Executive would take place on Monday 15 June 2020 at 12.00 noon.

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