

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 3 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**

 - Mr Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health**
 - Ms Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations, The Executive Office**
 - Mr Anthony Harbinson, Director of Civil Contingencies Policy Branch**

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired items 1 – 4.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 12 Minutes of Executive meeting of 30 March 2020

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1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 30 March 2020 were agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister

2. The Minister of Health briefed the Executive on the response to COVID-19 and addressed issues raised concerning the provision of reassurances to disabled people who may contract COVID-19 without access to critical care; and COVID 19 testing.
3. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance provided updates on the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment.
4. The Executive agreed that the Minister of Health should bring forward a paper on Testing strategy to the next meeting of the Executive.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

5. There were no actions to record from previous meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 4

CCG Sitrep: Matters requiring Executive decision

6. The Secretary to the Executive provided a read-out of CCG Situation Report which had been circulated to Ministers.

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AGENDA ITEM 5

COVID-19 Management

E (20) 43 (C) COVID 19 – Executive Strategy and Action Plan

7. The First Minister introduced this paper.
8. The Executive noted:
 - (i) the updated strategy and plan for managing the COVID 19 crisis, as attached to Executive Memorandum E (20) 43 (C); and
 - (ii) that priorities, actions and metrics would be further streamlined in liaison with Departments and following receipt of outstanding responses.

E (20) 44 (C) Partnership with Voluntary & Community Sector: Response to COVID-19

9. The Minister of Communities introduced this paper.
10. The Executive noted and endorsed the contents of Executive Memorandum E (20) 44 (C) in respect of plans to support vulnerable people during the COVID-19 emergency.

E (20) 45 (C) Northern Ireland Executive: Supply Chain Resilience

11. The Minister for Infrastructure introduced this paper.
12. The Executive:
 - i. noted the emerging threat to the resilience of the supply chain due to commercial decisions triggered by Covid-19;
 - ii. agreed to make the case to the UK Government for national intervention to protect the supply chain;

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- iii. noted that a UK Government intervention may not be sufficient or come in time to meet the Northern Ireland need and that short term solutions may be required; and
- iv. mandated relevant departments to urgently work up contingency options in the event that local intervention was deemed necessary for consideration by Ministers in the coming days.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee

E (20) 46 (C) Assembly Ad Hoc Committee - COVID 19

13. The deputy First Minister introduced this paper

14. The Executive:

- (i) noted the need to keep the Assembly informed regularly by means of statements to the Ad Hoc Committee; and
- (ii) agreed the establishment of arrangements for weekly notification to the Speaker of proposed Ministerial statements.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Matters requiring Executive agreement

15. There were no other matters requiring Executive agreement.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Note of Urgent Decisions

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16. The Executive noted the following urgent decisions taken in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the Ministerial Code:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

E (UP) (20) 15 COVID-19: Potential Impact on Supply of Goods to NI due to Financial Impact on Freight, Shipping and Port Operations

AGENDA ITEM 9

Any other business

Assembly Engagement and Executive functioning and communication

17. The Minister of Justice raised the issue of Assembly engagement and the effectiveness of Executive functioning and communications.

18. The Minister for Infrastructure expressed her concern at the difficulty she had experienced in obtaining responses to her requests for information.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Birth Certificates

20. The Minister of Justice raised the issue of problems created by guidance on registration of births because of the COVID-19 pandemic for families seeking child-related benefit.

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