

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 24 NOVEMBER 2020**

**MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM**

**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)  
Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division, TEO  
  
Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer  
Prof Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser

**INTRODUCTION**

The First Minister chaired agenda items 1 – 3.

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**E (M) (20) 64          Minutes of Executive meeting held on 19 November 2020**

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 19 November 2020 were agreed.

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**COVID Management**

2. The First Minister introduced this paper, which had been commissioned following discussion at the Executive meeting of 23 November of the use of click & collect services by non-essential retail businesses, and the designation of toy stores as essential retail, during the two-week period starting on 27 November.
3. The Minister for the Economy advised of proposals on a number of additional issues which she had raised with the Minister of Health.
4. The Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser advised of their view that any departure from the restrictions agreed at the Executive meeting of 19 November, and from the Executive's clear 'Stay at Home' message, would have a detrimental impact on COVID transmission rates.
5. Following discussion, the Executive agreed that for the two week period starting on 27 November:
  - toy stores, mobile phone repair and retail outlets, and school suppliers including school clothing outfitters should not be designated as essential retail;
  - non-essential retail outlets would be permitted to operate a strictly managed click and collect provision to be arranged on an appointment only basis;
  - this arrangement would be included in relevant regulations;
  - financial assistance would continue to be provided throughout the period;
  - places of worship could open for solitary prayer; and drive-in religious services would be permitted;
  - Self-catering accommodation would close, subject to certain emergency exemptions; and
  - Outdoor visitor attractions would close.

6. The Minister of Health advised that he would provide an update on Care Home visiting arrangements, and the use of the funding which had been provided for this purpose.

### **COVID Any Other Business**

#### **Christmas Messaging**

7. The First Minister provided an update on, and the Executive discussed, work underway to align Christmas planning across administrations, and the importance of the messaging to accompany the decisions reached. The First Minister advised that she and the deputy First Minister would take part in a COBR meeting that afternoon, and that engagement with the Irish Government was ongoing.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**The deputy First Minister chaired the remaining item on the agenda**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

##### **Any Other Business**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

#### **Date of next meeting**

14. The next meeting of the Executive would take place on Thursday 26 November at 11.30 a.m.

