

10-9-20

FM Intro

Minutes
FM

Sp Note
Amend DFI.

Matters Arising

- Exec papers process
⇒ Sp Note.

DFI

Supportive
Huge pressure - pandemic
Helps relationships

DOJ

Helpful, help to respond in more detail.

Issue - liaison with SMAs, - don't always respond to requests.

More structured - wld be helpful.

FM

Take responsibility ourselves -
be proactive in seeking consensus
- not spend hours talking on issues.

②

COVID update.

DOH.

2 papers circulated - 1.2

Average no of pos cases - up 30%
Positives up as well.

Slight [] in hospitalization.
Death today, slight increase.
Care homes - numbers creeping up.
20 out of 30 highlighted by testing
- proactive.

Managing situation.

Contact Tracing App - 360,000
downloads. Phone lines 553
cases, 84% successful contacts
1146 additional contacts.

Putting pressure on - scaling up
resources - over 3 contacts per
pos case.

Concern - pos cases in younger
population - fear of transfer to
older people

Sept 17 7.9% over 60
now - 14.7% over 60

Positives under 39 - constant.
- engaging with guidance.

Time-lag - hospitals, ICU.

NFC

Testing - publicity - people
being offered tests in Scotland -
lack of capacity - update?

DOH

System works - post code issue.
lot of pressure since return of
schools. Letter from CMO to
parents/schools via DE - lot
of children getting tests who
don't need them.

Mobile testing units - travel around ~~affected~~ areas affected.

CMO Letter from DHSE to schools to apologise to devalued admin re availability of tests - did not engage with DE. Intercepted some schools rec'd with no warning. Apology to schools in NI from DHSE.

DASEH Capacity for contact tracing? Can it increase if required? Feedback not good. Capacity to test no of people requiring tests via contact tracing.

CMO School return - lot of pressure on testing system. Less than 10% positive - parents want to do right thing. Some pos tests in schools - lot of contacts per child. Setting up Public Health Team to look at approach to be used for children - similar to meningitis alerts - more targeted approach. 5000 tests last w/e - turn up lot of false positives. Will make up ground from

dip last week.

DOH Additional recent^m — return of universities.

DAERA Asymptomatic — still spreading virus?

CSIA Small no of false positives — less than 1% — non-significant, but not recommended to be tested.

Asymp. — some have virus, some don't. False pos among those who don't. Causes problems. Can spread virus when asymptomatic.

APM % of testing done locally?

DOH Pillar 1 — 2000 tests, health care etc. — local NI

Pillar 2 — Randox, national — 14000 per day.

Can be accessed through online process.

APM Confident we have sufficient capacity. OK?

DOH Never OK, always pushing Pillar 1 — homes, health service.

National - mobile testing units.

DE Schools return - figures 93.6% pupil attendance. last year 94+%
Helpful - apology from GS, poor communications.

Working closely with CMO - dedicated phone line PHA.

Clear messaging to parents, schools
Large no of unnecessary tests -
liaise with schools - children in contact within 2 meters for 15 minutes. Focus on those who need tests.

CMO webinar with school principles.

Ensure people react in right way.

DOF Testing - info online.

Wd be helpful to see graph
Week-by-week - tests by post-code, also pos tests by postcode.

~~Parties~~ Parties in Derry - but v few tests.

Rural constituency - lower level of testing, lower pick-up.

Risk - Derry - webinar centre.

Tabular form, graph.

Asymptomatic - court system.

Court 3 Craigavon - came with daughter - was pos himself.

People can be reinfected - but be

symptomatic — resistance building in community.

DOH West — low nos in West, few people asking for tests. Centres in Derry + Enniskillen — less demand for tests.

Postcodes — some have low nos of residents, so couple of tests skews figures.

DOJ Derry — seems low.
Carrick — pod processing.
Bigger towns — shops, higher densities.
Why is Derry so low?

FM We in the West — always do what we are told. At height of pandemic, Altnagelvin v low

DOH People in east more social!
Don't gather personal info (DOJ campaigned for privacy).
In ROI, West less than East also — Atlantic?

DOJ Schools — classes are 20+ — will be hard to avoid big nos.

DE Bubbles — within 2 meters for 15 mins. Within school...

DOJ School buses

DE School — classroom assistant
— by separate contacts. Need to be careful re contacts.

DOF Flowchart guidance for schools
— isolation → not resolved yet.
People advised that centres are overloaded — need to look at entire system.

DRS Contact line for MLAs etc to PHA?

DOH Will look into — will speak to PHA.
Booking tests — issue across all of UK.
Flowchart — will be circulated in due course.

Action log

PM Sp Note

④ Local / General Restrictions

DOH Seeing increase in COVID, like everywhere. Address relaxations, 1st step back
① Do nothing — France, hospitaliz
France UK.

② []

③ General restrictions - against this approach, some areas not seeing increases like other areas.

Derry/Strabane - 8 per 100000
Bfs - 50+ per 100000.

Look at local restrictions -
building block, Council areas.

Ballymena is major within its
council area, but not other
parts of same council area.

Postcodes - communities, households
+ cases.

Belfast ^{areas} / Lisburn / Crumlin

BT43 - Cranswick.

Localized restrictions

BT43 - 3 of B/mena.

Look at B/mena - 30/40 mile
zone.

Rest - Bfs City Council, Lisburn.

Broke down - approach on
regionalized basis.

Pass restrictions - Pt 17.

- set out pathway, no of steps
under different headings.

Proportionate,

Mixing in households - Pt 18.

ROI - moved for 2 week, review

Scotland " " " "

Hospitality - enforce^m - compliance
rather than enforce^m. Engage

good will of population.

No of Review Pt 27.

Working gap on compliance, chaired by DfI - DfI concerns re role. Needs to be done.

Wet puts - separate paper TEO.

Visiting care homes.

Local restrictions - effectively immediately.

Proportionate steps back - start to ease in 3 weeks.

FW

Comment - sp note.

Asking people not to mix in own homes, but go to work - DfH to take on board (letter to DfH?)

DFE

Concern re rise - but between rock + hard place. No matter what we do - chill factor for economy, still struggling after lockdown. Impact on health of population.

Chancellor - £500 pw for staff - won't do much.

Limited measures better than full lockdown.

Care homes - v limited no of visits available. 3-week notice - v difficult to visit relatives - dementia, stress.

In terms of B/Men - defined

area.

Belfast - restrictions imposed on whole city, but only some parts of city impacted by figures.

DOH

looking at Rfs City Council - people move around city.

We feel it is necessary - get message across whole council area. Not manageable any other way.

DFE

10s of thousands of people will be impacted by restrictions -

PM

N + E Rfs - figures not low

CSA

In 40s + per 100 000.

All parts of Rfs - moderate/high incidence. Mobility patterns - apply to all of Rfs.

DOH

Notification to all care workers, not just Craigavon.

Death today - not sure if it is related to Craigavon, will check. Care home visiting - private enterprise - every 3 weeks - seems v strict.

DE.

Specific areas

Enforce^m - bring people with us

home parties - tougher action.

Irresponsible few

Person 18 - fair enough

17 - education - not final option.

Minimizing

Elderly in care homes with dementia,
limited amt of visiting.

Palliative care - distress at not
seeing relatives.

Direct ref to those previously
shielding - need different
language.

Advice - reduce level of contacts.

If we send signals - diff between
employers / employees, schools
etc. Care with language,
tailored for people with medical
vulnerability.

DOH Not asking people to shield again.

DE Need care with language, need
different formula.

DOH Clarify - we are not ending
pause on shielding, not telling
people to shield.

DFI Need to do something. Support
geographical approach. Reward
good behaviour.
Nth + West Bfs -

Can't pinpoint which relaxations have brought increase — families, hospitality.

Equality issues

Public transport — service from rural to city; only essential workers?

Not asking people to shield — but if v vulnerable, why not asking to shield?

Sort out language.

DOH

Behaviours across Rfs — Nth + East Rfs are in 40s — need to slow down.

No change to guidance re public transport — will clarify language. Avoid shielding — huge impact on people.

Careful for next 2/3 week period.

DFI

Context — hotspot — want to work from home — diff with employers

DOH

Spec guidance — has not changed — work from home if poss.

DOH

Need to leave meeting — reconvene at 5.00 pm?

DOH

As 500. are best?

DOR Can't be available before 5.00 pm.
Tell media we haven't made decisions.

FM DOR - get officials to engage with DCH, get issues addressed before meeting reconvened.

DOR Wrote letter to DCH - want responses

FM Take forward issues - complete paper for consideration / focus at 5.00 pm.

3.30 - meeting adjourned

5.00 - Reconvene

FM Stop again at 5.30 - media
Considering Soft Play etc.
- 2 papers together.

dFM Discussed with CWO - satisfied with papers being considered.

DOR Liaising with police - circulated response re PSNI.
Not content with paper - reservations with proposals
- cutting people off from families but opening pubs.

Enforce^m virtually impossible,
Meeting with CMO/CSA today - not
convinced local lockdowns in MT
will work

Infections / population density
- behavioural impact?

Disturb / Rfs / B-mena - urban
centres, magnet for travel /
commuting / work.

large no. of students coming
into city - will then go home to
rural areas, bring COVID with them
People outside lockdown zone will
move in + out of zone.

Equality issues - if you can
afford to eat out, can have
group bigger than six.

Buy freedom if better off.

Enforce^m - PSNI concerns -
relate to Private Property -
forced entry, not practical to go
from house to house.

Introducing restrictions - reliance
on public compliance

Lack of consistency / messaging.
We need to have proper discussion
- put structures in place, be
much more strategic.

Need to take at slower pace -
can't enforce over next 4/5
days - look in detail before we
make public state^m. Private

citizen responsibilities.

Rfs - operate by District Council area.
parts of East Rfs are in disburton Council area.

V difficult to manage.

Stop back, come up with more coherent plan on Wbn. Don't announce any relaxations - confusing message.

FWI

Enforce^m - don't want to chair working grp?

DOJ

Not refusing to do it - if DOJ chairs, gives impression DOJ/PSNI is responsible for all enforce^m. Shd be TEO - all elements of enforce^m - councils, HSE/NI.

FWI

x We'll do it in TEO

DOH

Concern re suggestion of pause for 3-4 days - asking for restrictions a.s.a.p. (with CW/CSA).

Won't be perfect, but have to act. Post codes.

Can include DOJ requested post codes.

DOJ

Immediate effect

If wait to Wbn, get it right. Need to take families + needs into consideration - delete

6 people from paper.

DOH Hospitality paper. ---

DOJ Restaurant/pub - more controlled environ^{ment} - but why can families not meet in house but meet in pub.
Stand over, consistency.
Start implementing next week.
Not defensible
Not enforceable.

DOH Haven't seen letter from police.

FM DOH - getting people to comply.
Moving ahead with wet pubs.
Equality point - nonsense.
Friends/family/households - evidence of problem. ○
Scotland - same issue.
Note DOJ concerns.
Move ahead today.

DOJ Haven't seen evidence -
reopened sectors.
Inevitable - clusters in family homes.
Not nonsense to say it's an equality issue. ○

DFI Sympathy with DOJ.

Restrictions re homes - but opening venues.

We know what we will be asked - will struggle to answer.

Need people to comply.

Take more time to consider.

dfm

CMD - correct advice, need to act?

CMD

Middle of pandemic, increase in cases. Least worst option, material risk to population, will lead to increase in cases.

Profoundly concerned re risk, urge him to take affirmative action as in paper. May need more action soon. Don't have days to wait.
Can answer DFI Qs.

DFI

Wish CMD had brought paper before.

Why rushing for Press Conf @ 5.30.

~~DFI~~

Pap

DS

[shielding] -

At one with both / CMD - concern re ref to shielding

DFI

CMD to answer Qs.

CMW []

no restrictions travel in/out of hotspots

[]

Premises

Essential workers can continue

Students - uni have guidance in place, will work with them.

PSNI - not going door to door

Shopping centres - no restrictions on travel

[] households, except for caring purposes.

Limiting social interaction - gardens.

20 Aug.

Measures - reduce no. of social contacts.

Shielders - no end to pause on shielding - but need particular care household contacts.

Bubble

Needs to be announced today, need to get message to public, going wrong direction, bring public with us compliance

If we discuss for 4/5 days, next week - nos will be hugely increased.

Don't underestimate level of

concern.

DJS Don't want to park for a week.
Relying on people at home,
Have him seen email I sent re
PSLT? Concern re ~~re~~ enforce^u.
Police say - no space for enforce^u.
Packing up. Proposal doesn't
go far enough.
No doubt - wd prefer going into
public space, not private space.

dFM Take all comments on board - agree
Papers today
Other papers next week

DJS Iron out wrinkles re enforce^u.
Need clear messaging.

XI DPI Concern - mixed messages -
family homes / public areas.

DE Tweak wording - shielding.

DPI Also tweak essential travel.

DJS Agree 1st paper
- will come back re
enforce^u
Not happy with 2nd paper

DPI X mixed message - family/
public space

CMD

Shielding - change reference.
Important - Press State m -
not asking people to go back
into shielding.

DOH

Content with FM suggestion re
essential travel

FM

I put into chat earlier

"Avoid unnecessary travel
outside area of restriction"

Working Gp - TEO to take
forward.

DOJ

Happy to participate - officials

DOH.

Committee needs to be chaired
by Min.

FM

x

Thank CMD + CSA for
inordinate amt of work

X 5.40

Adjourn

(FM/dFM Press Conf)

7.25 Review

3.2 first year

.2m. to DE for PP cent pot
for PE to from o
depts quickly.

accurate assess have to
spend funds this year.

Schools know Gov D issue
cd take a couple of weeks.

Give certainty re

Next Thurs at of

funds

60

need answer from

or

monitoring

Agree between depts no
leads on issues eg +
newspapers

If DCH funding posn
clear, Oct Mon.

Happy with page

Audit

Office report

deeper analysis

Hm C - Grand,

we doing

own analysis / century

DOF

HmRC - no specific investigation
here - estimation 250,

funclough sche he

Engaged at start with Comptrol
+ Auditor Gen has job

to do - protect pubh purse

10,000 / 25,000 schemes - a neat
allocation.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

DFC [I sect R -
dat 4 Sept
ask for Social expense to be
agreed u req nt procedure.

FE Support p Carol. Need to get
money out + spent
enot consequentials for
this week - lockdowns

DOF Some money qn to Glasgow
+ [Leicester]. B Her don +
have to chse ho doing some
analysis. Looking at Offaly/
Davis. Con in GB made
limited int ventions
In expect g any Barnett
consequen als

Important situation - of re
Barnett funds, - have to support
businesses.

Think carefully befo ke
away person right to wa
a living.

x Talk offline?

FM dFM + spoke with Sart etc

DAERA Anything for backlog which has
melt

AOR

DOE Circulat paper TI agreed

Irrelevant & Sensitive

PHI

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

dfm Next meeting - Thurs 17 pt.

DFI Start earlier?

Fm Interrupt day other
meetings.

dfm Start 1.00pm next Thurs.
