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MEMORANDUM E (20 155 (C))

**FROM: FIRST MINISTER
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

DATE: 25 JUNE 2020

TO: EXECUTIVE COLLEAGUES

**FINAL EXECUTIVE PAPER: COVID 19 – INDICATIVE TIMELINE FOR REMAINING
RESTRICTIONS**

The Executive commissioned an indicative timeline which is attached for consideration on 25 June.

Objectives

2. The purpose of the exercise is to streamline and group decisions, to ensure that the totality of the easements is properly planned for, and to enable the Executive to give preparation time to citizens and sectors in a way that is understandable and coherent.
3. Without this approach, the Executive may need to manage a large number of decision points.
4. This approach is caveated by the following:
 - easements must still be risk assessed and CMO and CSA advice taken into account; and
 - the dates are indicative only, and can be changed if community transmission rates do not enable the easement to be made

Methodology

5. A workshop was held with officials from most Departments. The workshop focused on how the easements can be grouped (for example, large venues etc) and the issues were discussed on a cross Departmental basis to look for common ground and to factor our inconsistencies.
6. The easements are also presented against issues of considerable importance to citizens, such as family and friends, leisure time etc.
7. The Executive is invited to discuss and agree that indicative dates may now be given to citizens and sectors.

Faiths

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8. The Executive will consider ratifying the decision to enable places of worship to open from 29 June. A further meeting was held with Faiths Leaders on Wednesday, at which CMO and CSA answered questions and provided advice. The timeline envisages that the date will be ratified.

9. It also proposes that indicative dates will be given for weddings and funeral attendance. The issues are complex in themselves, and are linked to a move to allow larger numbers of people to gather in public places. It is proposed that:

- separate advice will be submitted to the Executive on Monday
- an indicative date for an announcement on these issues will be set for 30 June
- the Executive can discuss and decide on Monday whether the indicative date can be ratified

10 Faiths Leaders were made aware yesterday that slightly more time would be needed for this important and complex group of issues.

Social distancing

11. Jurisdictions have and are considering the 2 metre issue. CMO and CSA's position on this remains as before. There are societal and economic implications to also be taken into account. First Minister and deputy First Minister plan to engage quickly with the hospitality sector to discuss their thoughts on mitigations which they may be able to make. This will be on the basis that 2 metres must be adhered to where possible, and 1 metre must be maintained as a minimum with maximum mitigations. This engagement will inform the way forward.

Recommendations

11. The Executive is invited to:

- discuss and agree the timeline
- agree that indicative dates can be shared with citizens and sectors
- note the planned approach for approving the remaining issues for the Faiths and Civic Sectors.

The Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA
First Minister

Michelle O'Neill MLA
deputy First Minister

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