

From the Minister of Finance

*Robin Swann, MLA
Minister of Health*

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Dear Robin

MODELLING THE COURSE OF THE COVID EPIDEMIC AND THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I write regarding the paper you have issued in advance of the Executive meeting. This paper does not contain a recommendation from you as Health Minister or from the CMO/CSA. This is not sufficient and falls short of what is expected from a Health Minister when the Executive is expected to make decisions to steer society through the coronavirus pandemic.

It is my position, and I have continually said it at Executive meetings, that we must be guided by the medical and scientific advice. That remains the case. Such advice needs to be clear and concise and spell out exactly what the Executive needs to do in order to bring transmission rates down and protect our health service.

The Executive's agreed "Coronavirus – Executive Approach to Decision-Making" document, published in May 2020, publicly committed us to those guiding principles – of bringing transmission rates down and protecting our health service - when considering restrictions. A strategic objective of the Executive is to bring the R rate below 1 and as close as possible to 0.7.

I am therefore requesting that you, along with the CMO and CSA, come forward with clear recommendations on the actions and restrictions that the Executive should apply today in order to lower coronavirus transmission rates.

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**CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**