

[17/03/2020, 09:52:13] Andrew McCormick: FM and dFM could surely decide and state that all Covid-19 response and planning is cross cutting and subject to CCG NI

[17/03/2020, 09:54:29] David Sterling: That would be the sensible approach and I will push this tomorrow. But this JBO move is a wider political game being played. I'll raise this with Stephen McGlade and Philip Weir.

[17/03/2020, 10:00:16] David Sterling: Tracy, are you saying the advice on your website dated 16 March that starts "I am suspending face to face assessments...." was against official advice?

Before I raise with SpAds.

[17/03/2020, 10:02:18] Jill Minne: At the risk of stating the obvious, it will be important to give as consistent as possible advice to staff and managers. I'm starting to updating advice and FAQs now but if anyone gets DWP advice please email it to me. Thanks .

[17/03/2020, 10:03:57] Tracy Merhag: No that was absolutely in line with our advice but not that we are closing offices closing offices.

[17/03/2020, 10:04:08] Sue Gray: DWP sending it to me but they have said they are not in the lead and advice changing daily and also operating with regional variations

[17/03/2020, 10:04:45] Jill Minne: Ok - thanks Sue

[17/03/2020, 10:05:14] Tracy Merhag: I should add that Museums have said they are about to announce that they will close from tomorrow.

[17/03/2020, 10:05:14] Katrina Godfrey: Any point in getting the Scottish Government advice? Generally things are more sensible in Edinburgh (and more transferable too)

[17/03/2020, 10:05:37] David Sterling: Thanks Tracy, it looks like the JBO line has been spun. I'll still make the point that we need a coordinated response on front line offices as we discussed on Friday morning. D

[17/03/2020, 10:06:19] Jill Minne: Yes- to Scottish Government. Will try now

[17/03/2020, 10:06:58] David Sterling: I'm going to drop a line to Leslie Evans and Shan Morgan asking them for copies of their advice (if available). D

[17/03/2020, 10:07:14] Jill Minne: Thank you

[17/03/2020, 10:07:49] Denis McMahon: Just sent NR note

[17/03/2020, 10:08:08] Senior EIS Duty Officer: Deirdre was pretty clear on the radio this morning. Offices not closing but face to face contact stopped for three months to protect clients and staff. Also made some good points on engagement with VCS and how they can help most vulnerable in society, including homeless.

[17/03/2020, 10:14:26] Tracy Merhag: I should also add this follows DWPs approach to not break parity.

[17/03/2020, 10:19:30] Denis McMahon: Colleagues, on a slightly different note, these exchanges show the benefits and limitations of WhatsApp. In DAERA we will be doing our standup later on today on our laptops via Jabber. I would recommend we set something like this up for PSS to enable interactive and rapid comms over the coming days. (We might as well use this to adopt better ways of working.)

[17/03/2020, 10:20:48] Peter May: Denis. I agree but DoJ can not access jabber because of the confidential system so perhaps we could look at what else would work.

[17/03/2020, 10:21:50] Chris Stewart: Perm secs might wish to consider how the latest advice ought to be reflected in the staffing of the Hub and Docs. I am picking up some concern about colleagues feeling left exposed to risk, whilst others might be (prudently) working from home. My initial view is that it is not practicable to move to an entirely virtual approach, but that there should be scope for some roles to be performed remotely. That may be inescapable as the outbreak progresses and we lose staff to illness.

[17/03/2020, 10:23:03] Peter May: The 2 metre distancing approach is surely the way forward here - we will not be able to work remotely and be effective on this