

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE– DO NOT SHARE WITHOUT PERMISSION

## DAILY NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION REPORT **012**

**Saturday 4rd April 2020**  
**Information correct as 18:00**

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OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE



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## Main Developments (from previous daily pack)

*These should be drawn from both data and progress on delivery*

- Ministers and officials engaging with counterparts in Whitehall on issues of ports, ferry operators and hauliers. DfE, DAERA and DfI working on contingency measures. Decision taken on further relaxation of drivers' hours linked to ferry crossings to ease pressure on hauliers. Executive agreement to escalate and request urgent assistance, as a result, all 3 Devolved Administrations have agreed to sending a shared message to UKG on need for urgent decision.
- DAERA Minister announced £1.5m support package for fishing industry on 3 April.
- PSNI urging government departments and local councils to adopt a consistent approach to access to parks and beaches.
- Further call for volunteers from education sector to support Easter opening of schools.

2	OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE		Individuals Tested	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
		Total	8034	998	56
		Increase from yesterday	+509	+94	+8

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## Main Issues

*An overview of all Black and Red issues*

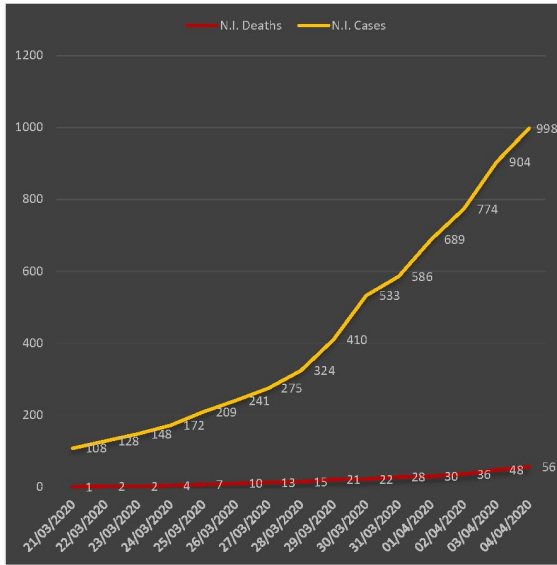
ISSUES				
	Description	Lead/Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	Complaints on calls to the Covid 19 Community Helpline by vulnerable people going unanswered – risk that needs will be unmet. DfC working with Advice NI and Council Chief Execs to address the issue.	DfC	R	↑
2	Increasing awareness of the commercial impacts of ports, operators and hauliers potential to impact on supply chains.	DfE	R	-
3	Four Nations Guidance issued on 2 April has lead to increased demand on supplies of PPE particularly from primary and community cares sectors.	DoH	A	-

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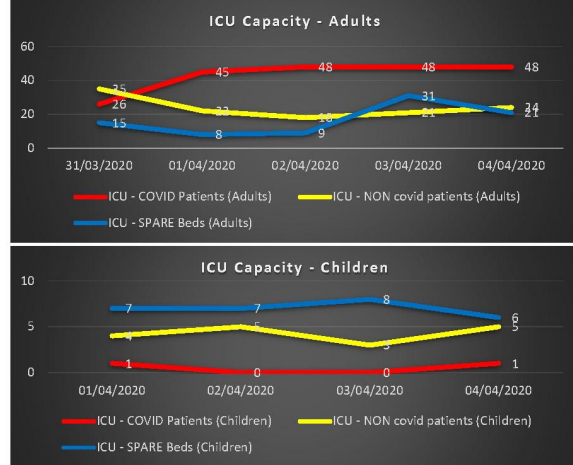
## Data Summary

### A. Health Cumulative confirmed cases compared to deaths in NI (as of 03/04/2020) [Source: HSC; Public Health Agency]



### B. Health System Requirements. Adult ICU bed availability as of 03/04/2020 [Source: DoH LO Return]

A further Press Release, issued on 2 April on surge planning, designates the BCH as NI's first Nightingale Hospital. Will provide additional capacity of 230 beds for Covid-19 patients requiring intensive care during pandemic. Further critical capacity will be created at Altnagelvin and Ulster hospitals. Total ventilator capacity is **165**.



\* 1 suspected child case

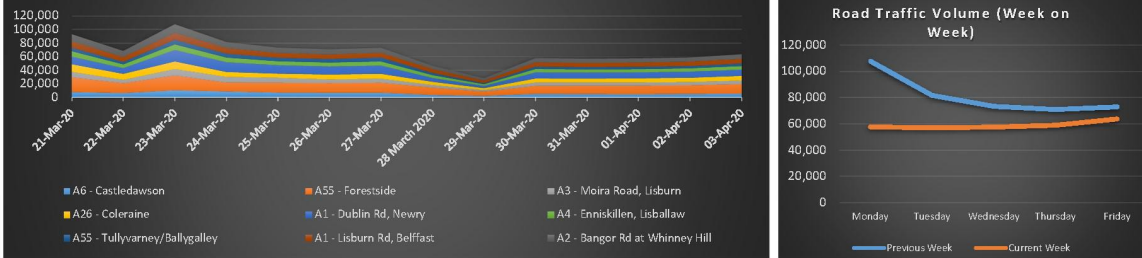
4 OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

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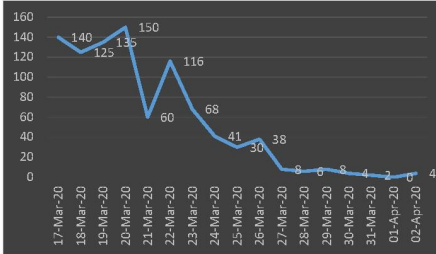
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## Data Summary – Travel & Compliance

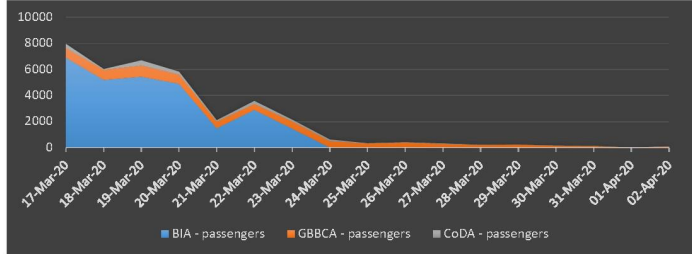
### A. Road Traffic. Up to 03/04/2020 (Source: DfI SitRep)



### B. Airports. Number of flights per day (Source: DfI SitRep)



### C. Airports. Number of passengers per day – by airport (Source: DfI SitRep)



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## Current Media and Communications

### NORTHERN IRELAND

- DoF – PPE procurement continues to face significant press interest.
- DoF Media interest and social media activity around closure of the Land Registry and impacts on house markets.
- PSNI Social media messaging asking people to follow the regulations this weekend.

### UNITED KINGDOM

### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

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## Expected Media and Press in the next 1 – 2 days

- **DoF** - Possible story this weekend on BBC about a businessman from the North West complaining about confusing messages from Departments and delays in receiving money
- **DoH** - Photos to be published in relation to the new SSE Arena testing facility for HSC staff.
- **DE** - School arrangements over Easter Holiday period – guidance to be offered on School clustering.
- **DE** – Potential launch of safer schools app.
- **DE -Press release being prepared on GCSE and A Level examinations**
- **DFI** - Hauliers and relaxations in drivers' hours requirements.
- **DFI** - Recognition of essential workers in NI Water and Translink (Ministerial video). Announcement on further relaxations in drivers' hours (daily rest) requirements made late Friday evening (3 April).
- **DfC** – Press release likely to be required in response to growing number of callers unable to access the Covid 19 Helpline.
- **DfC** – Following announcement on food boxes today, interest is likely next week on deliveries to vulnerable people and Council distribution centres.
- **DfC** - Press Release – Food distribution for vulnerable (proposed 12pm Sunday) and tweet to accompany: @CommunitiesNI Minister @DeirdreHargey has put in place additional supports for the most vulnerable in society to provide essential food parcels to around 10,000 people shielding because of COVID-19 and who have no family/friends support network
- **DfC** - Press release - NIHE Rent Freeze - Sunday or Monday
- **DfE** - £10k Small Business Support Grant Scheme – portal went live 26 March. 13,187 payments processed; further 1,603 applications being validated.
- **DAERA** - Support for Fishing Industry – Ministerial Press Release 3/4/20. Media outlets already reporting.
- **DAERA** - Media suggesting essential worker list to be published on 6/4/20 which will very likely include Agri-Food workers.
- **EIS** - Coverage of increasing death toll in NI ahead of the expected surge next week
- **EIS** - Head of the CBI says she expects the list of essential workers to be published on Monday
- **EIS** - Economic shock on NI economy becoming clear after DfC showed 33,000 new claimants for UC from 18-30 March
- **EIS** - Executive ministers stress unity of purpose to save lives

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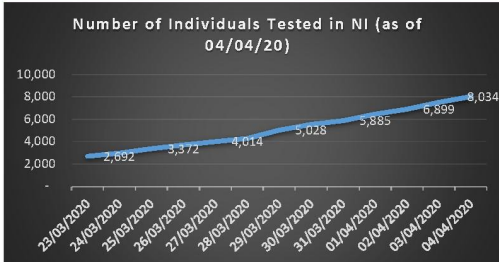
## Theme – Health and Care

ISSUES			
Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend
1 Belfast & South HSC Trusts have reported a potential issue with the supply of reagents used in the testing process which may reduce testing capacity going forward. Referred to the Expert Group on Testing to address.		A	↑
2 BEIS Chemical Sector report has highlighted concerns over shortage of chloraxedine used in hospital sanitisers and shortages of oxygen used in water processes.		A	

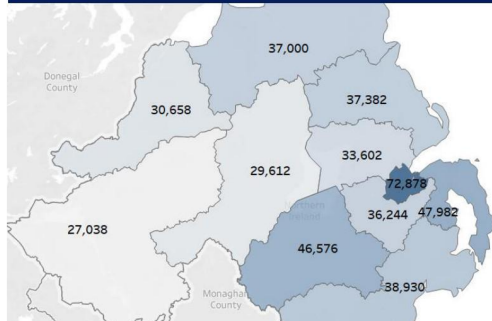
PRIORITY DECISIONS		
Decision	Deadline	Owner
1		

RECENT ACTIONS	
1	UN World Tourism organization has launched a call for action for Covid-19 mitigation and recovery
2	DAERA Minister set up Covid 19 Waste Group
3	DfI – Proposal for legislations to resolve issues with PSV licenses for taxis DfI Monitor traffic count for Easter holidays as indication of behavior relating to "essential" travel only

### Supporting Data



### NI Population aged 70 or over (2018 Estimate)



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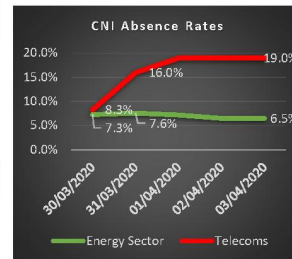
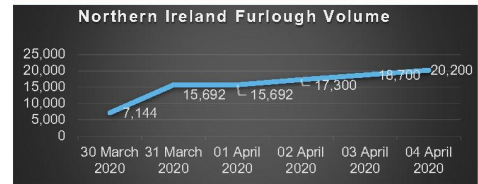
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## Theme – Economy and Infrastructure

ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRA G	Trend
1	DfI, DfE and TEO leading. Ferry/Port companies signalling financial difficulties – potential disruption to food, feed and seed supply. DfE, DAERA and DfI working on contingency measures. All 3 Dev. Admins sending shared message to UK on need for urgent decision.	DfE/ DfI/ TEO	R	-
2	Business seeking clarity on essential workers essential services and workers list; calls for flexibility on Job Retention Scheme to reach more firms; concern over ability of large firms to sustain SSP as they cannot reclaim from government. SSP absence rates are at unprecedented levels; NIFDA/CBI reporting patterns of absenteeism now stabilising at around 10-12% as industrial relations settle a fall from 14%.	DfE	R	-
3	Tourism and hospitality industry stressing many businesses not able to access grants that have been announced to date. Asking Government to address this – e.g. circa 100 NI coach operators.	DfI	R	↑
4	Finance – closure of LPS offices and 50% reduction in operational staff impacting delivery of public facing services including rate collection, housing benefit and rate rebates	DoF	R	-
PRIORITY DECISIONS				
	Decision	Deadline	Owner	
1	Executive discussion relating to supply chains, ports and ferries. Continued work to feed into Critical Freight Taskforce.		DfE/DfI/TEO	
2	Tourism & Hosp industry requested access to grants schemes		DfE	
RECENT ACTIONS				
UN World Tourism organization has launched a call for action for Covid-19 mitigation and recovery DAERA Minister set up Covid 19 Waste Group DfI – Proposal for legislations to resolve issues with PSV licenses for taxis DfI Monitor traffic count for Easter holidays as indication of behavior relating to "essential" travel only				

### Supporting Data



#### NI Economy:

To date approx. **360** companies have furloughed their workforce totaling just under **20,200** employees.  
 [Source: DfE SitRep Return (04/04)]

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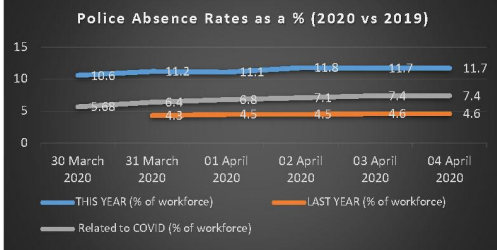
## Theme – Justice

ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	Availability of stocks of PPE for PSNI officers – supply may be insufficient in weeks ahead	DoJ		

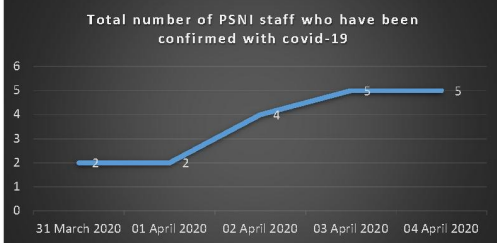
PRIORITY DECISIONS		
	Decision	Deadline
1		

RECENT ACTIONS	

### Supporting Data



**12** (up from 3) prisoners in isolation as a precautionary measure.



10 OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

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## Theme – People and Communities

ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	Complaints on calls to the Covid 19 Community Helpline by vulnerable people going unanswered – risk that needs will be unmet. DfC working with Advice NI and Council Chief Execs to address the issue.	DfC	R	↑
2	School opening arrangements over Easter holidays – further guidance to issue on clustering including possible emergency hubs to cater for unplaced children of key workers. Further call for volunteers from across education sector.	DE	R	-
3				

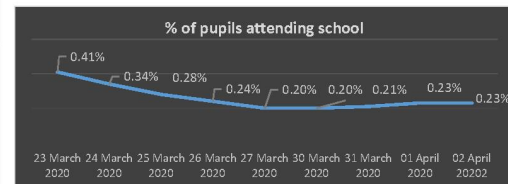
PRIORITY DECISIONS			
	Decision	Deadline	Owner
1			

RECENT ACTIONS	
1	Ministerial announcement on Food supply to vulnerable people
2	New contingency arrangements being implemented to deliver increased volumes of work for UC payments. NIHE to implement rent freeze Sunday 5 or Monday 6 April Further call by DE for volunteers to provide support for Easter opening of schools

### Supporting Data

#### Universal Credit Claims and Calls

	New Claims	Calls Received
WC 16 March	13,000	12,800
WC 23 March	20,300	18,844
This Week	11,100	6,627



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## Look Forward

1 – 2 Days	This/Next Week	>2 Weeks		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>DoH</b> - Causeway Hospital has made a decision not to facilitate the delivery of babies during the surge period but will continue with antenatal services.</li><li><b>DfI</b> - Liaison continuing with ports and ferries in the context of Critical Freight Taskforce.</li><li><b>DfI</b> - Announcement of relaxations in drivers' hours (daily rest) requirements</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Food supply to the vulnerable - Local government structures established to help deliver. Phase 1 of food supply will focus on the shielding cohort with supply of food boxes to those with no access to family/social network support.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - food box support - Discussions with Suppliers taken forward with CPD involvement. Letters issued to Henderson's, Lynas Foods and Musgrave seeking bids - this will allow for the provision of more locally sourced products and reduce the potential risk of supply chain failure.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Establish helpline to use Civil Servants where possible to bolster the COVID 19 Community Helpline to enable it to meet the expanding demand.</li><li><b>DoF</b> - COPRU guidance to issue to C3 teams on Monday 6 April 2020. Third run of payments of the small business support grant prepared on Friday 3 April.</li><li><b>DE</b> - School opening arrangements over Easter - further guidance on clustering including possible emergency hubs to cater for unplaced children of key workers.</li><li><b>DE</b> - Social distancing guidance to the education sector</li><li><b>DE</b> - A further call for volunteers to support opening of schools for vulnerable children and those of key workers.</li><li><b>PSNI</b> - Unlocked parks, beaches, etc. - a consistent approach is required by councils and Depts who own land. This current approach is creating issues in terms of policing the legislation.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>DoH</b> - Further Covid-19 centres to be opened across Northern Ireland in Antrim and Coleraine. Nine already opened to date.</li><li><b>DoF</b> - Fully implement HR Hub and start submitting HR Hub SitRep. Ongoing updates to COVID-19 guidance for NICS staff.</li><li><b>DE</b> - Administer volunteering scheme for the education sector.</li><li><b>DE</b> - Announcement on childcare.</li><li><b>DE</b> - Agreeing policy approach on examinations.</li><li><b>DAERA</b> - Official controls in meat plants - staffing levels may become a greater issue.</li><li><b>DAERA</b> - DfC lead - Third sector organisations - potential financial difficulties.</li><li><b>DAERA</b> - Potential backlog of finished pigs on farms.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Redeployment of DfC/NICS staff to form a screening team for new volunteers to assist councils and grass root organisations.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Major sporting bodies to begin delivering pharmacy supplies in partnership with Community Development and Health Network.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - urgent consideration to a similar arrangement to that in Great Britain whereby debt management are temporarily suspending deductions from benefits.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Food supply to vulnerable - looking at regional supply in terms of prepared food and general food/foodbank supply to supplement Local provision.</li><li><b>DfE</b> - Stakeholder engagement forum chaired by LRA - includes PHA, SOLACE, PSNI, FSA, third meeting scheduled Monday 6 April.</li><li><b>DfI/ DfE</b> - Continued work on supply chain issues for DfI Critical Freight Taskforce paper for GPS MIG meeting on 7 April.</li><li><b>DfI</b> - Proposals for legislation to resolve issues with PSV licences for taxis</li><li><b>DfI</b> - Traffic count for Easter holidays being monitored as indication of any behaviour change relating to 'essential travel only' requirement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>DoF</b> - The opportunity to apply for the small business support grants may be closed around the end of April.</li><li><b>DAERA</b> - Reduced pallet wood supply consequences for food chain transportation.</li><li><b>DAERA</b> - Animal By-Products. Emerging issues with disposal.</li><li><b>DfI</b> - Significant issues with Translink cashflow due to fare reduction.</li><li><b>DE</b> - Draft press release being prepared on public examinations.</li><li><b>DE/DoH</b> - Joint press release being prepared on childcare (subject to funding)</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Coronavirus household leaflet - wc 13 April.</li><li><b>DfC</b> - Embedding an effective process to replace volunteers as they tire or become ill.</li><li><b>PSNI</b> - PPE - whilst efforts are being made to locate additional stocks for officers, there is a concern that supply will be insufficient in the weeks ahead.</li><li><b>DfI</b> - Major project work potentially slowing down due to capacity issues within construction sector (A6 Randalstown).</li></ul>		
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Supporting Information

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## Departmental Absences





*No data return expected during the weekend*

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## Transport

Road 	Rail/Bus 	Ferry 	Air Traffic 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DFI – Driver licensing processing:</b> Drivers with medical conditions will not be able to renew their licence in the absence of a medical assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DFI - Translink:</b> Significant fare revenue reductions as a result of steep decline in passenger journeys across both bus and rail networks.</li> <li>• <b>DFI - Translink:</b> Department would require an additional <b>£81m</b> on top of its baseline to allow Translink to breakeven</li> <li>• <b>DFI -</b> The cost of COVID-19 has been estimated at <b>£10.5m to £12m</b> for DfI (mostly Translink <b>£8m</b>) in 2019-20 alone.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DfI -</b> Ports are being significantly impacted by the dramatic drop in freight volumes. This may have an impact on medicines, food and other critical goods.</li> <li>• <b>DFI - Hauliers, Ports and Ferry Companies:</b> The latest information from our main ferry companies shows that passenger travel has declined dramatically (-90%) and freight has declined up to 25% from last week.</li> <li>• <b>DFI - Hauliers, Ports and Ferry Companies:</b> In order to be profitable in journeys across the Irish sea hauliers must have a full load in each direction but at the minute many are travelling empty one way.</li> <li>• <b>DAERA -</b> 8 out of 10 fish processors in Kilkeel now closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DFI – Airports:</b> The number of passengers has fallen by such a large number that the airlines are cancelling many flights. This in turn is threatening the survival of the airports particularly CODA</li> </ul>

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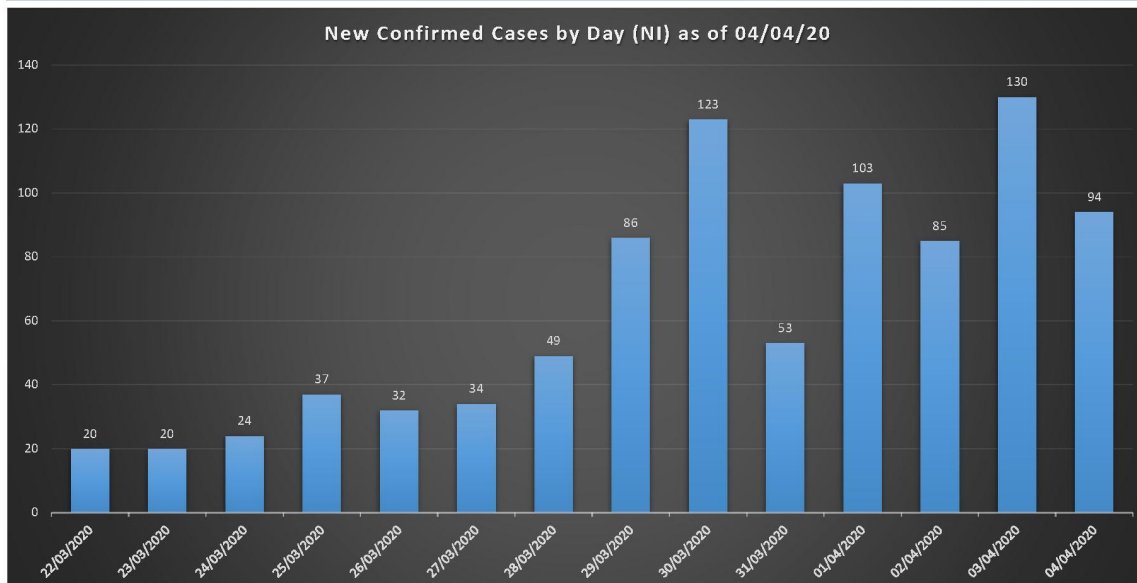
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## Additional/Supporting Data (1 of 3)

NI Supporting Information [Source: HSC: Public Health Agency]



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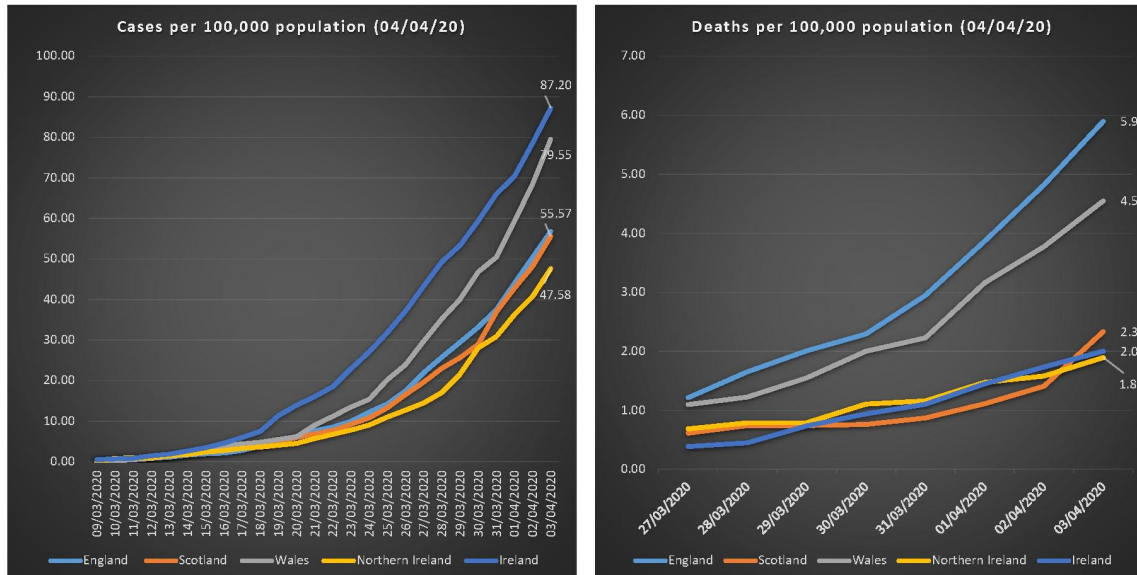
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## Additional/Supporting Data (2 of 3)

### UK and Ireland Cases and Deaths [Source: PHE]



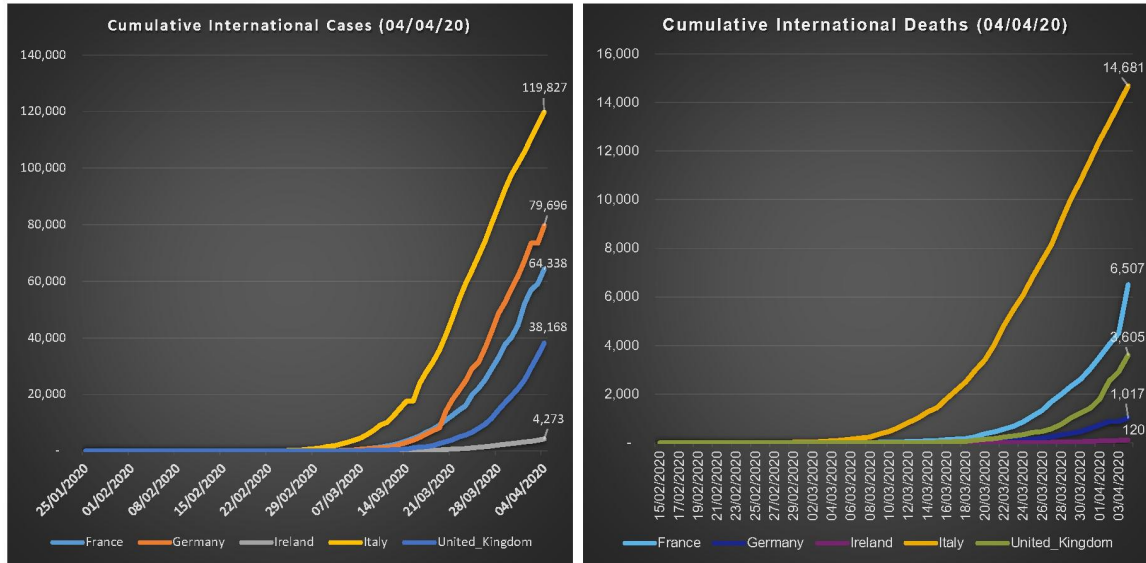
17 OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

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## Additional/Supporting Data (3 of 3)

### Cumulative International Cases and Deaths



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