

13/03/2020, 22:31 - [I&S] : ðŸ˜™@ðŸŸ†-ðŸŸ†\$

13/03/2020, 22:31 - Gordon Lyons: VID-20200314-WA0000.mp4 (file attached) [Irrelevant image]

13/03/2020, 22:41 - Peter Weir: There is info going to all schools. I had a more general letter that we were able to release about tea time tonight. We are trying to get PHA nailed down to a specific advise document for schools, which we had hoped at one stage to get off them today, and now aiming for Monday. Problem seems to be events changing so quickly that PHA are hard to pin down on detailed advice, and may be being overwhelmed by speed of events. Sense is their advice is not specific on special needs/medical conditions of pupils. I will speak to Robin over the weekend to see if he can push things re getting guidance out and can speak if needed to Michael McBride on Monday- I assume he will be at exec

13/03/2020, 22:42 - Emma Little Pengelly: IMG-20200314-WA0003.jpg (file attached) [Irrelevant image]

List of inaccurate, misleading and sub-standard submissions to Arlene by DETI officials listed in the RHI report

13/03/2020, 22:42 - Phil Weir: Can mention to Robin and cmo at armagh tomw

13/03/2020, 22:44 - Emma Little Pengelly: IMG-20200314-WA0002.jpg (file attached) [Irrelevant image]

The ridiculous response by Sterling to these failings by officials under his watch

13/03/2020, 23:08 - Peter Weir: Now seen letter from Archbishop. Unsurprisingly no coherent or convincing arguments and reminds me a little of a letter that would be written on behalf of a constituent when you feel you have to but know that they have no case

14/03/2020, 07:55 - Edwin: In Agreement with you all, calm heads required as we chart a way through a very serious crisis.

Back home now if required today onwards again

We are having a summit on Monday morning with the agri food sector

14/03/2020, 15:14 - Emma Little Pengelly: IMG-20200314-WA0007.jpg (file attached) INQ000356075

14/03/2020, 15:15 - [I&S] They have all lost their minds

14/03/2020, 15:23 - [NR] : Totally irresponsible. If they continue in this vein many will come to the view they should not be in charge of any levers of power. Panicking people.

14/03/2020, 15:24 - [I&S] Apparently cmo advises but politicians decide because the public are ahead of us. I totally despair I have to say

14/03/2020, 15:26 - [NR] Yes but decisions must be based on a rational evidential basis not because joe bloggs thinks the end is nigh.

14/03/2020, 15:27 - [I&S] : Exactly

14/03/2020, 15:27 - Gordon Lyons: He will be wearing a tinfoil hat next! Racist undertones, devoid of science and inciting people to panic

14/03/2020, 15:27 - [I&S] Thatâ€™s a direct quote from the Dfm by the way

14/03/2020, 15:36 - Edwin: We are in this first a long haul. It is likely schools will have to close, but last week was ready on the hysterical side. Response needs to be measured and reassuring, while staying ahead of the curve.

Leo ignored advice and done what he done to give justification for a grand coalition, Ted Howell must have give her the call to get the harmonisation kicked in to place, thus the overnight conversion or should I say coercion

14/03/2020, 15:55 - Peter Weir: Totally agree. Majority of Executive in a sensible place on this, and the 2 most relevant departments- health and education are outside their control. Fundamentally public health and the saving of lives is the only consideration which is why the CMO is the critical person to follow rather than Dan from Derry ranting down the phone to their local sf MLA. We need to be the grown ups in the room and measured and reassuring is the right tone and policy. Some of us may ultimately end up losing loved ones or at the very least people we now. We need to look

people in the eye knowing we did all we could to minimise this. Schools will almost inevitably close at some point, and educationally that can be handled, but only when it is of best advantage to public health and on that clear advise

14/03/2020, 15:56 - **I&S**: δŸ'

14/03/2020, 16:00 - **NR** CMO is critical person to follow. It would be helpful if he fronted up some more media.

Neither AF nor RS are experts. He is.

He should have been on that panel today and doing a decent communication job tomorrow.

14/03/2020, 16:02 - Peter Weir: Iâ€™ve not been round the Creggan but anyone Iâ€™ve spoken to this week has either said straight off that they agree this is the sensible approach or if they raise it in a more neutral way, readily agree when explained. Havenâ€™t had anyone disagree or rant about other than a few of the nut jobs or ardent nationalists on social media

14/03/2020, 16:12 - **I&S** RS wanted to protect cmo today from the obvious question as to why Dfm was not content to follow his advice.

14/03/2020, 16:18 - **NR**: Fair enough but he is the voice that needs to be heard.

14/03/2020, 16:26 - Peter Weir: The spurious argument that we need to automatically follow an all Ireland approach as per foot and mouth/bse is somewhat undermined by the reality that livestock do not generally choose to go on skiing trips to northern Italy

14/03/2020, 16:27 - Gordon Lyons: Generally!

14/03/2020, 16:48 - Peter Weir: Well there was time that Daisy the cow won the downhill alpine gold at the winter â„ Olympics

14/03/2020, 17:27 - **I&S** I suspect we need clear statements from CMO at all times. I am organising a round of meetings for Monday re economy and tourism and a paper re package of measures. All of these issues will need to be addressed by the up coming budget. Will be ready start of week

14/03/2020, 17:29 - Phil Weir: This issue will dominate life here for at least the next six months. A coronabudget would seem appropriate

14/03/2020, 17:54 - Emma Little Pengelly: We need a discussion on what we as a party team want from a business support package too. Other administrations seem to be ahead with their packages. Should we be asking DOF to bring forward info on what actions in whitehall and what the consequential are for here?

14/03/2020, 18:01 - Emma Little Pengelly: Some key issues that civil contingencies could be doing/coordinating;

- Info for Schools re handwashing, if parents decide to keep their children off even if open, what to do with children who are vulnerable and with underlying illness, preparing materials for at home learning

- Information for parents with children with complex medical needs

- information for parents on dealing with a self-isolating child

- plan to support business

- sourcing of additional ventilators, essential equipment and volunteer support for Health Service

- drawing up potential guidance to go to all households by way of leaflet

- consideration of a daily briefing and update at a set time every day to go out live on social media

- implementation of a local 2pm and 8pm update for the public by way of graphic information
- coordination of local councils, third sector, churches etc to support in local communities
- guidance on the use of public transport
- consideration of a small project board/taskforce to include Spad representation on identifying and delivering all these actions
- clear risk registers and update for Ministers in a regular basis

14/03/2020, 18:04 - Emma Little Pengelly: Are there other issues we should be asking them to look at? Strangely enough, I don't feel hugely confident in the dynamic duo of Sterling and Stewart who are leading this up...ðŸŸšðŸŸšðŸŸš

14/03/2020, 18:05 - Emma Little Pengelly: \*information on graphics...not graphic information! ðŸŸ±

14/03/2020, 18:07 - **I&S** : Yes. All helpful. We have some work done in economy. I should have a draft paper tonight/tomorrow and then the DUP team needs to have a very clear set of asks. If necessary a solo run by us in order to put pressure on Finance. The only issue they were raising with us last week was Magee.

14/03/2020, 18:07 - **I&S** Can you share that Diane when received as I may do GMU on Monday morning to set agenda

14/03/2020, 18:42 - **NR** IMG-20200314-WA0010.jpg (file attached) **INQ000356076**

An increasingly prevalent view given the erratic behaviour from SF. Need to get them to a more sensible place in terms of their public utterances.

14/03/2020, 19:46 - **NR** <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>

14/03/2020, 20:09 - Emma Little Pengelly: IMG-20200314-WA0013.jpg (file attached) **[Irrelevant image]**

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14/03/2020, 20:25 - **I&S** Yes of course

14/03/2020, 20:52 - **NR** IMG-20200314-WA0016.jpg (file attached) **INQ000356080**

14/03/2020, 20:52 - **NR** IMG-20200314-WA0014.jpg (file attached) **INQ000356078**

14/03/2020, 20:53 **I&S** Is that a controlled school

14/03/2020, 20:55 - **NR** IMG-20200314-WA0015.jpg (file attached) **[Irrelevant image]**

14/03/2020, 20:56 - **NR** Not sure. Not by the look of their Rae section on their website. Mixed non denominational

14/03/2020, 20:57 - Gordon Lyons: There will inevitably be a domino effect as pressure comes on other schools

14/03/2020, 20:58 - **NR** **I&S**

14/03/2020, 21:03 - Phil Weir: It's a controlled primary, population change over the decades mean its intake now v different, do cross community projects with **I&S** Say bringing three proposed days off in May forward

14/03/2020, 21:05 **I&S** SF have now created a fissure in strategy that is hard to recover from. Am I right in saying that govt in England have taken powers to force schools to stay open. This will also apply to FE colleges.

14/03/2020, 21:21 - Peter Weir: Yes it's controlled but I think it has a large % catholic intake. Would be based in a Catholic part of Lurgan and also immigrant population **I&S** also closing for the week. I will be doing what I can press wise on Monday, and we have been pushing PHA to send specific faq/

02/07/2020, 12:23 - Emma Little Pengelly: IMG-20200702-WA0008.jpg (file attached) **INQ000356120**

02/07/2020, 12:25 - Peter Weir: I see even Chris Donnelly indicating on Twitter that she needs to start defusing this by changing tone

06/07/2020, 13:26 - Phil Weir: Zoom at 1.40- will send details just before

06/07/2020, 13:40 - Phil Weir: **I&S**

06/07/2020, 14:39 - Peter Weir: Hope SF aren't looking for funding for Performance Art/ Street Theatre

07/07/2020, 12:37 - Phil Weir: Aiming for a discussion with ministers and spads in FM office at 4pm

07/07/2020, 12:38 - Edwin: Can I do it virtually

07/07/2020, 12:38 - Edwin: Q

07/07/2020, 12:39 - Phil Weir: Will send zoom details just before for anyone not in building

07/07/2020, 12:51 - Peter Martin: I can be there (physically)

07/07/2020, 12:53 - Peter Weir: Me too

07/07/2020, 15:59 - Phil Weir: **I&S**

07/07/2020, 16:00 - **I&S** On my way

07/07/2020, 16:18 - Emma Little Pengelly: IMG-20200707-WA0009.jpg **[Irrelevant image]**

07/07/2020, 17:54 - Peter Weir: That reminds me, I must get a new leather sofa

09/07/2020, 09:36 - Peter Weir: Is there a pre meet?

09/07/2020, 09:48 - Phil Weir: **I&S**

09/07/2020, 10:57 - Peter Weir: About a venue for the Executive strategy discussion...

09/07/2020, 11:29 - Peter Weir: Slightly bizarrely in the middle of this the fire alarm went off and we had to evacuate the building for a while but able to follow on the iPad

16/07/2020, 08:48 - Edwin: Concerned we are getting shoehorned on the masks issue with little scientific evidence to support it

16/07/2020, 10:25 - Peter Weir: Do we have any feedback from retail sector. Think we need both medical and economic evidence. Was in Belfast City Centre and struck by how it was still fairly quiet. Retail view important as to whether it helps with consumer confidence or is a further hindrance

16/07/2020, 10:40 - **I&S** Agreed

16/07/2020, 11:43 - Peter Weir: The other factor we need to think through with any measure suggested is whether it acts as part of a package of potential mitigations to avoid a future second lockdown, or acts as a segway into it. A future 2nd lockdown must be avoided at all costs, particularly with optimistic movements in medium term on vaccines

16/07/2020, 13:36 - Edwin: I just don't get the sense this is driven by the science.

There will be further outbreaks and we will have to respond probably with localised lockdown, but I would be keener to hear the CMO talk about how we get back on track at tackling cancer, AF screening to avoid stroke etc; the traditional illnesses are taking many more lives and younger lives than Covid19 many which are avoidable.

Mallon is going the right way about killing of public transport so not inclined to roll over to her and Swann without qualitative scientific evidence to support them.

16/07/2020, 16:59 - Peter Weir: I will be looking to see what can be done to bypass Mallon

17/07/2020, 09:43 - Phil Weir: Keep 1pm on Tues free for a catch up if can

10/11/2020, 20:10 - Peter Weir: To couldn't organise a p\*\*\* up in a brewery, we can now add couldn't organise a printed fixed penalty notice in a print factory

10/11/2020, 22:00 - Phil Weir: dfm looking clarification re excess deaths- fm clear we maintain our position

10/11/2020, 22:26 - Edwin: I don't know how you put up with this day in day out.

Those in our own department don't know how well of we are.

10/11/2020, 22:28 - Edwin: Maybe if they hadn't predicted 15,000 deaths the additional 150 would be more believable

10/11/2020, 22:58 - Phil Weir: Is it on our interests for Diane to allow people time to reflect overnight rather than push to vote tonight?

10/11/2020, 22:59 - Phil Weir: Time is our friend

10/11/2020, 22:59 - **I&S** What do you want me to do?

10/11/2020, 23:00 - Edwin: We have 4 votes

I think Swann will abstain

10/11/2020, 23:00 - Phil Weir: Need text to vote on

10/11/2020, 23:11 - Peter Weir: Did you hear the officials on the zoom call, until they caught themselves on?

10/11/2020, 23:11 - **I&S**: What did they say?

10/11/2020, 23:11 - Edwin: Shinners want to crash Diane's proposal and tomorrow pressurise us into backing down.

Naomi doesn't expect us to crack, robin doesn't know what way to I think he will abstain.

10/11/2020, 23:12 - **I&S** We will not be backing down

10/11/2020, 23:12 - Edwin: Shouting at each other bit like a continuation of our meeting.

10/11/2020, 23:13 - Peter Weir: They were saying did so and so send you the final document. We have such and such but no that's an earlier draft. Getting quite messy, realised some of us were on and pulled themselves off zoom

10/11/2020, 23:13 - Edwin: We can't back down, they are happy we do this they just want to damage us.

10/11/2020, 23:15 - Peter Weir: The cheek of getting lectured by someone from the republican movement about the unacceptably of excess deaths

10/11/2020, 23:19 - Peter Weir: Hold our ground and either tonight or tomorrow we ultimately have the vote. Long will curse us but if we keep the choice between this and no regs will back it, and Swann if he knows that is the choice will not want to put his hand to it but can't risk blocking either so will abstain. Only issue is will both do that tonight

10/11/2020, 23:44 - Peter Weir: At this rate we will get the final tallies from Georgia and Alaska first

11/11/2020, 00:14 - Phil Weir: In our interests to wait til tomw

11/11/2020, 00:15 - Edwin: Delay hasn't helped,

11/11/2020, 00:48 - Edwin: Comms is critical

We need our people on every programme setting the agenda

The 150 figure had no evidential base provided and the csa balked when asked for evidence CMO made no attempt to substantiate it.

WHO say lockdown doesn't work.

Lead cardiologist in the Royal and three other doctors are publicly criticising it,