

- The legislation should be ready to go through both Houses of Parliament by the time a decision is made whether legislation is required.
13. The CHAIR introduced the Legislative Policy paper and maximalist list of possible provisions, emphasising the significance that any Bill covered all four nations of the UK.
14. In discussion the following points were made:
- The Bill was referred to as 'COVID-19', but there remained a question of whether it should apply more generically to any pandemic.
  - Concern about scope creep based on the provisions presented.
  - The importance of the public being adequately persuaded that such provisions were necessary.
  - That provision with respect to staff ratios and school standards was included in the Bill but required further development.
15. Responding, the CHAIR said that all departments should work at pace if the Bill was to be developed promptly. Policy decisions were imminently required, so that drafting could begin.
16. Summing up the CHAIR urged care in developing legislative positions. He said that they should not be extended beyond core ministerial groups and agencies, and stated that there should be no external engagement without Ministerial consent.

**Item 3: Planning for a Reasonable Worst Case Scenario (RWCS) – next phase**

17. The CHAIR invited the Director of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat to give an update on planning for the RWCS. The DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES SECRETARIAT said that there was work to be done to create a clear plan of activity (across the UK Government) from the moment of sustained transmission to its estimated peak, which was likely to be a period of three months. That a detailed agenda of decisions and actions required over a period of twelve weeks was required.
18. In discussion, the following points were made:
- The further from central government, the more difficult it would be to create detailed plans, particularly in the social care and voluntary sectors. Therefore information should be shared to undertake proper planning but there remained a risk that some of this information could reach the media.
  - The need for preparatory work with the voluntary sector. The voluntary sector's response would be important.
  - Welsh response structures had been heavily tested recently with flooding and were as ready as they could be.
  - That the Northern Ireland Executive Strategic Civil Contingencies Group meeting on 19 February would discuss the response to a potential pandemic.
  - 38 English Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) had been asked to review their reasonable worst case scenario pandemic influenza plans and report back to the Ministry for

**ANNEX 1 - ACTIONS**

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Novel Coronavirus (M)(20)(4)

**CABINET OFFICE BRIEFING ROOMS**

Novel Coronavirus

**18 February 2020, 15:00**  
**Conference Room F, Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall**

**ACTIONS**

1. The FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, with support as needed from the MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND and the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE, to finalise plans for possible requirement and deployment of military or contracted medical staff and consular support on the ground in Japan to meet individuals coming off the Diamond Princess.
2. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER to advise on appropriate isolation for individuals returning from the Diamond Princess to the UK via other routes.
3. The FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE to share the passenger manifest from the Diamond Princess with BORDER FORCE and the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE.
4. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND and the DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE to nominate individuals to join the membership of the joint FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE/DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HMG International Taskforce.
5. ALL DEPARTMENTS and DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS to provide final contributions to the proposed clauses by 1700 19 February.
6. ALL DEPARTMENTS and DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS to contribute possible future decision points to the Civil Contingencies Secretariat as part of the reasonable worst case planning.
7. The MINISTRY HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT to communicate the SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP FOR EMERGENCIES reasonable worst case planning assumptions to the local resilience forums.