

MEETING NOTE

<b>TITLE/ORGANISATION:</b>		CMO Call – 11 October 2020	
<b>VENUE:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stormont Castle</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER:</b> Zoom 26 Attendees in total
<b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minister</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Spad</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PS</b>	dFM, FM JM Kearney JM Lyons Stephen McGlade, SPAD Dara O'Hagan, SPAD Philip Weir, SPAD John Loughran, SPAD Emma Little-Pengelly, SPAD Mark Ovens, SPAD
<b>OFFICIALS:</b>	Michael McBride (CMO) Ian Young (CSA) Richard Pengelly DoH, David Gordon DoH Karen Pearson, Andy Cole (TEO) Donal Moran (PPS); <input type="text" value="NR"/> (PS); <input type="text" value="NR"/> (PS) <input type="text" value="NR"/> (PS); <input type="text" value="NR"/> (PS) Chris McNabb, <input type="text" value="Name Redacted"/> (EIS) Andrew McCormick		
<b>OTHERS:</b>			

**KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:**

MoH – Worse place than Thursday. Hospital number and ICU beds increasing significantly. Trust have already started to down turn routine surgeries in order to clear. Very hard intervention, very soon and for longer than initially suggested. Looking at a 6 week lock down equivalence. Interaction at school gates causing a concern. Interventions have not resulted in improvements.

Derry City will be 1000/100,000

Mid Ulster has passed Newry & Mourne.

Altangelvin opening up Third Covid Ward.

Need an intervention tomorrow.

dFM – What is the doubling rate now? CSA – Slightly less than 7 days. 290 next Sunday and c. 600 the following Sunday. Any interventions take 10 days for curve to flatten. Every day makes a real difference.

FM – Beds capacity? Standing up Nightingale Capacity. ICU Surge sees more beds in ICU wards, not Nightingale yet as it requires staffing. Utilising private staff to cover staff that have to self-isolate due to Covid.

dFM – What is the MoH plan for Executive tomorrow.

What is the best way to manage and land it? Keen to do it as united and joint as possible – 6 weeks full lockdown including Education.

FM – need to see detail of proposal. Prefer to deal with graduated response. Apply the Derry proposal across NI and indicated that she would not support any proposal to close education.

MoH – if applied across NI would see a reduction but would necessitate another intervention before Christmas. Work JMs are doing work on enforcement. Need to see the out workings of that. Not seeing a reduction anywhere, more drastic actions required now. Time is not on our side.

FM – Need clarity on information and data. Will see what COBR until tomorrow.

CMO – We are 10 days away from NHS overwhelmed and significant numbers of deaths if we do not take decision. Executive needs make decision on the acceptable level of mortality for both Covid and other conditions. Likely to see Covid in Care Home. We don't break down detail at Post Code level for a number of reasons.

JM Kearney – I'm advised that the Waiting Lists for testing were running into the hundreds to reflect the demand from citizens. Translink Service in Derry & Strabane having to scale down services due to staff self-isolating. If we have a Halloween Break for a week and a week owed to teachers from 17 August. Need a

## OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

lead in decision for schools, community and society. People need some time to prepare. Discussions between TUC and CBI have been taking place in UK & ROI.

JM Lyons – To get below R Rate of 1.0 MoH is saying we need a 6 week intervention (i) based on compliance achieved in Wave 1? and (ii). what do we do if these interventions don't work.

CMO interventions were successful in Antrim. Did blunt the rate in Newry & Mourne. Single measures on their own are unlikely to be successful. Doubling of cases every 7 days. Have not applied sufficient interventions to reduce transmission rates.

dFM – Executive Policy is to keep R below 1.0. Schools and Hospitality brings R down by 0.5. Schools scenario is manageable have been working to develop Online Learning provisions. Need to focus more on the numbers of people in hospitals. Public will understand. FM queried why we are the only part of UK going into full lockdown.

FM concerns is if we go to lockdown Businesses will close. Suicide and other health concerns will skyrocket.

CMO if NI were a country the numbers and trajectory are the worst in Europe. I as CMO can only give advice to the Executive based on Modelling. Timing & Impacts a decision ASAP but implementation by 16 October is required, based on doubling time. Wave 1 people did die from Covid but did die from other illnesses. Impact we will peak at 450-500 inpatients based on current figures. If we intervene now we can keep the peak at the level and wider Health provision open.

dFM – funding announced by Chancellor we can mitigate the worst for businesses. Very difficult position and need to achieve a least worst option. The more joined up we are the more support we will get.

FM – Briefing the press will in advance of Executive will be unhelpful and trying to bounce my colleagues will backfire.

MoH – sent 5 Tier Plan to TEO on Wednesday. Right decision not to lay the paper on Thursday but I have to protect the Health Service.

FM & dFM have to make a broader decision based on Social, Economic, Health & Wellbeing.

DFM – Is MoH standing up Gold Cell EOC. Management Board were covering but will probably stand up Gold Cell. Strips out staff from other areas.

KP – Noparticular questions. Think ahead to next weekend based on a scenario of a decision being taken and of a decision not being taken.

CMO – next week NHS will be turning off services to focus on Covid response. Rapidly running out of time.

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

dFM – on 6 week proposal would take us to the other side of Christmas. Would we need another intervention after Christmas?

CSA – another intervention required in January or February at the latest.

CMO a longer intervention may be less disruptive than shorter but more interventions.

JM Kearney – Modelling based on the SAGE process. Comparable assessment of what is happening in England, Scotland and Wales and what engagement has there been with NHEPT and if others are considering the type of interventions being proposed. Assessments of success of measures put in place back in March.

FM - Risk Analysis, COBR call tomorrow so a lot to do. Education piece difficulties not in the schools but at the school gate. CMO concern is school transport and social gathering.

dFM – When will you share a draft paper with FM & dFM.

MoH – Paper needs work. MoH will be on the COBR call in the morning as well.

**ISSUES AGREED:**

**ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:**

**NOTE WRITTEN BY:**

**Donal Moran PPS**

**DATE:**

**11 October 2020**