

MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		CMO Call – 30 September 2020	
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stormont Castle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Zoom 18 Attendees in total
LIST OF ATTENDEES:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	dFM & JM Kearney FM & JM Lyons, Minister Swann Dara O'Hagan, SPAD John Loughran, SPAD Philip Weir, SPAD Mark Ovens, SPAD
OFFICIALS:	Michael McBride, CMO Ian Young, CSA Karen Pearson, TEO Donal Moran (PPS) NR PS NR M PS NR (PS NR JM PS) David Gordon (DoH) NR DoH)		
OTHERS:			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:			
MoH outlined case for more restrictions in Derry City & Strabane Council Area (DCSDC), Hospitality (Takeaway, Delivery, Outdoor Dining), Museums, Galleries. All in the area to avoid travel. Wok where home where possible. Need more PSNI visible presence (Para 3 & 4 of paper). Measures reflect what was done previously			

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in Level 4 and reflects measures in Co Donegal. There will be calls for additional support packages in the area. Barbers/Hair Dressers staying open.

CMO reiterated rationale. Rate of risk is deeply concerning.

CSA – R rate above 2 over the weekend. Slightly reduced but still well above 1. IN Belfast restrictions have blunted the rise but has not reversed it. Household mixing restrictions effective in rural areas but not so much in urban. Measures proposed may not be sufficient.

dFM are we suggesting with immediate effect for a period of 2 week.

MoH would like to see it immediately with visible enforcement but may be dependent upon the regulations.

KP can begin work immediately but don't think it will be *immediate* based on regulations.

dFM - What about other Council Area?

MoH - To be kept under review. Belfast is the next worse at half the rate of DCSDC.

CMO - Keeping a close eye on other Councils areas in the North and on the situation in the South. Engagement with local Government. Had a conversation with John Kelpie and will need their support to implement. Measures in Donegal acceptable to the sector.

FM - Thanks for the paper. Comprehensive but will be a shell shock to some of the Hospitality Sector. Need to look at the measure the IG introduced. Also need clarity on '*essential travel*' (What is it? Who enforces it?). Tight rope decision, some businesses will close. Huge issue of enforcement, need to get the PSNI and the Council onside before the measures are made public.

JM Lyons - Need clarity on language, there are no proposed additional changes being made to Private Dwellings? CMO concurred.

dFM - Public Messaging vital. Need to engage with EIS tonight to ensure this is worked up in advance. Need to a briefing for the MLAs in that area. Can DfE do something tonight re Hospitality Sector? Can DoF engage and develop something along the lines of what was done in the South?

FM - Agree work to be done overnight and re-group again in the morning. Understand CMO/CSA advise but how do we enforce the measures.

CSA - Need to make the case that this is for the benefit of the whole community, and seek voluntary update before the regulations come into effect. Recognition that there is a significant risk and concern in the area.

CMO - Doubling time is now 9 days. Time is not on our side. Population don't need regulations to do the right thing.

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FM - Agree with all of that but concerned around enforcement.

DG - Could compensation package be in place before the regulations?

KP - Regulations will be complex and could take a few days. Also need to think about who we need to engage with Police, Council, MLAs. Where do you want to announce Press Conference, Written Statement to the Assembly

FM & dFM - Can't wait until Monday. Brief political representatives. Work way through each group. Must happen before the Executive. Need work on the Hospitality piece and Essential Travel piece.

CMO - Unnecessary Travel as opposed to Essential Travel. CSA supports that position. Need people to limit contacts which will result in a drop in footfall.

FM - Restrictions in Ballymena resulted in a 20% drop in footfall. The restrictions proposed here are far more stringent. Need to take up the discussion with Westminster and on the call with CDL tomorrow.

CMO - All parts of the UK will have to look at the 'circuit breaker' type approach. Home to mitigate that is a UK wide issue.

dFM - Circuit Breaker approach should be a joined-up/co-ordinated N/S, EW approach.

JML - What timeline & sequencing are we looking at?

FM - KP needs to engage with drafting colleagues. Keen to engage with PSNI & Local Council on enforcement first before Executive.

MoH - Engagement with PSNI at an Operational Level. CEO of DCSDC can pull together the Party Groups Leaders on the Council

dFM – 1) DoH Paper and Letter tonight 2) Enforcement (11:00/11:30 am) MoH to brief Min Mallon at same time 3) Notification of Written Statement to Assembly 4) Elected Reps 5) Executive (12:00 noon) 6) Lay Written Statement (TEO paper, based on DoH Paper) 7) Political Reps Meeting 8) Press

MoH - At Committee at 9:30.

JMK - Call to Colm Gildernew for a conversation to take place with Mins Long & Mallon. Not walking into Executive Meeting to ensure everyone is given their place.

MoH - When do we circulate this paper dFM in the morning after the 9:00 a.m. shift. FM & dFM need to speak to MoF and MfE, under the Financial Assistance Scheme.

KP - Is there merit in inviting the MoJ to the Enforcement Meeting.

dFM – Take this as first item on Executive Agenda. Need Ministers to help deliver the messages and need visibility on Friday and over weekend.

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<p>JMK – ‘Reset’ mode essential. To be dealt with at outset of the Executive meeting. To become the practice and process on how we manage the process.</p>	
<p>ISSUES AGREED:</p>	
<p>ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE: FM & dFM to have a call in the morning.</p>	
<p>NOTE WRITTEN BY: Donal Moran PPS</p>	<p>DATE: 30 September 2020</p>