

MEETING NOTE

<b>TITLE/ORGANISATION:</b>		CMO Call – 7 October 2020	
<b>VENUE:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stormont Castle</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>OTHER:</b> Zoom 23 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 Minister Swann Dara O'Hagan. SPAD John Loughran, SPAD Philip Weir, SPAD Emma Long Pengally SPAD Mark Ovens SPAD
<b>OFFICIALS:</b>	Michael McBride (CMO); Ian Young (CSA); Richard Pengally (DoH); David Gordon (DoH); Karen Pearson (TEO); Chris McNabb (EIS); NR (EIS); NR (EIS) Donal Moran (PPS); NR (PS) NR (PS); NR (PS) NR (PS)		
<b>OTHERS:</b>			
<b>KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:</b>			
CSA introduced the R paper which details usual info. All getting worse. Cases in NI highest in Europe for 14 day rates. Hospital admissions, sitting at over 100 inpatients, doubling every 7/8 days therefore will exceed Wave 1 admissions in 2			

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to 3 weeks. IN danger of being overwhelmed at that stage. ICU occupancy at 14, lags behind. Deaths will follow in 2 to 3-weeks' time. Usual graphs and Local Government details.

Paper on Tiering System, 5 Tiers as opposed to 3 Tiers as is case in England.

MoH – 5 tiers links to what we have done here already in the past. The Level 4 here will be Level 3 in England. Level 5 is full lockdown again. Strong alignment with Tiers in England (which we haven't seen yet).

FM – Problem is we are in Level 4 in the N/W and don't want a position where WM may withhold funding.

dFM – What is the key message from MoH for tomorrow's Executive.

MoH – need a joint TEO/DoH paper. Need to get all Ministers on the same page. Need a joined up/reset messaging for the public. No major recommendations tomorrow re local authority areas, figures starting to stabilise due to proactive measures locally, want to see some more tests. Takes on board FM's comments. Happy to look at the levels.

dFM – Face Coverings paper recommending wider use. Banks, Hospitality (not seated), Retails Sectors Staff (some options); Plane Travel; Private Buses & Taxis; Driving Instructors; Benefits Offices. Query around churches.

MoH – What about the enforcement question? Will be challenged.

KP – PSNI Fines – nil but 800 engagements. Minister Long paper fine from £60 to £200.

dFM – One chance to capture the public. Face Coverings and Increased Fine – is that enough and bring forward a Tiered Plan for next week?

MoH – Supportive of that and DoH contributing to the TEO 5 Tier Plan paper. If we need until Monday.

CMO – need the Tiered Plan for Monday. Consider a draft tomorrow for a final version on Monday. Haven't touched upon the modelling figures which are pushing for a decision. The longer we defer the soon the Health Service comes under pressure.

FM – Is Enforcement Group being convened?

JMs and KP agreed to take forward on Friday morning.

JM Lyons – we need a greater steer from the Executive and need more robust action from the PSNI. Won't get compliance without enforcement.

JM Kearney has a slightly different take on it. If the direction is forthcoming PSNI willing to act. Suggest a 2 Tied approach. Talk to Alan Todd tomorrow in advance of Friday. Could FM/dFM speak to Simon Byrne and similar approach with

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and Susanne Wylie. Larger stores to employ Marshalls.

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KP – 5 Tiers – COBR due, lack of clarity on the 3 Tiers and more info may develop by Monday. No clarity on where they are going. MoH model gives you a baseline, 3 stages and full lockdown (1 & 5 as bookends). All the right information in captured and don't want to lose it.

MoH – need a full Executive Approach.

CMO – Assessment by Departments of Impacts and Mitigations. On the Finances, important to note that the Furlough Scheme in place to end of October.

CSA - Modelling Paper – Two papers in, a further two to come. Backgrounds sections talking about R and how to get it to 0.7. With Schools Open the best we will achieve is 0.9 and 1.0. If Hospitality is also open R is likely to be above 1.0. Section on Compliance (Good compliance is critical, communications and enforcement key). Approach to Modelling based on 320 COVID-19 patients in General Medical Wards. Shows doubling time of 8 days and comparisons with Wave 1. Need to have an intervention that gets R down to 0.7, whatever that intervention is and the latest it could start is 19 October. Worked through slides with various interventions discussed. CSA is of the view that the models are all optimistic to achieve the preferred outcomes.

dFM - the longer the intervention the less you will have to do.

CSA – Highly unlikely that one intervention is going to be enough.

CMO – realistically with will be early next year before a vaccine will be available.

dFM – What is the Scientific preferred option?

CSA – A 3 or 4 week intervention from 12 or 19 October.

JM Kearney – the longer the harder the better. What does hard mean in terms of an intervention? What consultation in GB & ROI.

CSA – Close schools and hospitality. Similar to Wave 1 which got R down to 0.7. Discussed at length in SAGE. View aligned with SAGE view. Haven't discussed with ROI yet & didn't see the NIPET recommendations.

FM – Need to engage with colleagues tomorrow and get to a position we can all live with. Need to step back. Tightrope act.

Face Coverings & Enforcement tomorrow. More stringent measure next week.

Concerned around confidentiality tomorrow after Executive.

MoH – What papers can we share?

- Can share R Paper.
- 5 Model Paper with KP and TEO so won't share it.

FM – Engagement with SAGE and what will be happening in Scotland and Wales.

CSA – Same scientific advice will have been given to governments. Governments placing significant weight on financial and educational issues.

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CMO – every single jurisdiction is struggling with this issue. Handling in Dublin is not the way to do it. Same conversations are taking place. Only least worst options available, no good options.

KP – Scotland were finalising their announcement right up to the last minute. Then find out there will be a COBR meeting. If we can take a few days it might be a smart option. Don't table the Tiers Paper tomorrow.

FM – I want to give colleagues a sense of the seriousness of the position.

dFM – Agree. Highlight seriousness and coming to a decision point.

FM – need time to assess the measures already put in place. CSA will be able to say that the rise is slowing therefore no need to intervene.

MoH – What about the Word Document which provides the context but remove the dates. (paras 14, Para 15, Para 16).

FM proposed FM & dFM engage with DfE and DE on the details. But not wider Executive colleagues. Main issue around Economic issues and is dependent upon economic packages that may be available. May not have clarity at COBR or on Monday WM debate. Clarity on funding is critical to decision making here.

KP – Covid O – Travel Corridors (11:15 – 12:15) – MoH to attend & step out the Mental Health.

KP – Universities – Complex, not sure where we are on it. Is DfE taking the lead and don't have the locus to direct Universities. Need DfE to talk to DoH & PHA and agree a joint position. CMO provided Public health to DfE. Student Welfare consideration but students should not travel and preferred option is online provision. Messaging important. Need to press down on unnecessary travel more broadly.

Penalties (DoJ) and Facemask (TEO) Papers for tomorrow.

DoH to share Modelling Paper with Dates removed for consideration.

dFM need further discussion over the weekend.

**ISSUES AGREED:**

**ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:**

<b>NOTE WRITTEN BY:</b> Donal Moran PPS	<b>DATE:</b> 7 October 2020
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