

[12/01/2020, 12:35:08] Michelle O'Neill: Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them.

[12/01/2020, 12:35:08] Michelle O'Neill: Hello Julian. Delighted that we have gotten over the line and the Executive is restored. It was a complex 3 years but we got there in the end with everyone doing their bit so all credit to all.

There is a fly in the ointment in terms of the finances available to make it work. What you suggested is not what is transpiring and we find ourselves with the positivity and deal being undermined by the finances. This needs to be resolved in advance of PM visit otherwise it will be a difficult visit for him as we will have to go public on the British Government not living up to it's part of the deal.

Would like to chat about this. Give me a call.

Regards

Michelle

[12/01/2020, 12:35:45] Michelle O'Neill: Sent this to Julian smith - think you should also put a shout out to him on the finances as they fall far short of what was promised

[12/01/2020, 12:36:20] Arlene: Yes so I understand. I will speak to him later. AF

[12/01/2020, 12:36:28] Michelle O'Neill: 🙌

[21/03/2020, 20:32:42] Arlene: I think you public undermining of Robin (after Peter on Yeaterday) today was totally uncalled for. If you want to effect change in a policy you are going completely the wrong way about it. You are playing politics when things are much too serious. It is hugely disappointing but unfortunately I'm not surprised.

[21/03/2020, 20:56:35] Michelle O'Neill: It's too serious to tolerate incompetence. Things are too slow. Lives will be lost. Start listening.

[21/03/2020, 20:57:50] Arlene: I hope you are not calling two of your ministerial colleagues incompetent. Naomi and robin have both raised concerns about your behaviour. You need to be more collegiate.

[21/03/2020, 21:05:46] Michelle O'Neill: The department is not serving Robin well. We are not being served well by the civil service. This is a time to knock heads and to get them to act with haste. Our nurses are crying out for help to do their jobs. I spoke to many from the western trust area over this week and they need us to fight for them.

[22/03/2020, 18:15:20] Michelle O'Neill: I think we did very well on Sunday politics this morning. Hope you felt the same. Huge burden on us in the time ahead. Let's work our way through this in as best a manner as we can. See you in the morning.

[22/03/2020, 18:50:44] Arlene: Yes think it went ok. See you tomorrow when we need to push for more answers around PPE and comms. Hope you had a good day.

[24/03/2020, 12:59:32] Michelle O'Neill: Visiting still permitted but work underway to get an agreed position. Difficulties with people in end of life care, mothers with new babies (ie other parents couldn't get in), and children in the children hospitals...

[28/03/2020, 19:25:52] Michelle O'Neill: Dear David,

Yesterday you informed myself and the First Minister that having heard our concerns around the structure of the existing Executive response to the Covid-19 emergency that you propose bringing a draft Strategy for consideration by Ministers on Monday.

This is welcome and I thank you for your continuing efforts to provide the necessary support as Head of the Civil Service.

Our shared objective is to have a structure which is fit for purpose and which allows the collective Executive to contribute to saving lives and alleviating suffering of people affected by this escalating pandemic.

Failure to adapt will simply hamper our best efforts to respond.

In this context I write to offer some views which I would like you to take into consideration as you develop the new draft strategy.

I want the Executive and each Minister, through our shared leadership, collective responsibility and the diversity of our views, to be utilised and optimised through regular meetings where decisions are taken to respond to this emergency.

Everyone must have an understanding and input to the Executive coordination and readiness of this escalating emergency across all of government.

Communication is absolutely key.

Strengthened communication and more predictability around reporting on what is happening within DoH and across all departments is essential.

Everyone receiving as much detail as possible in a timely manner helps inform Ministers.

Therefore, direct discussions with the Minister, CMO and senior management team is critical and necessary.

I want to stress that this is not about constraining the Health leadership team.

Information and advice management, situational analysis, C3 civil coordination assessments, Sitrep and DoH/PHA daily surveillance reports will also help achieve this.

It is critical that Ministers have a full understanding of the Risks, impacts, and mitigation's in place.

We need to know what work is being done on critical incident/disaster horizon planning and who the senior responsible officer for this is.

The Minister for Finance has allocated almost half of the Covid-19 budget to DoH. The Health Minister will meet no resistance if gaps, needs or other investment areas are identified, including PPE, testing and ventilators where Minister Murphy is actively working to maximise procurement co-ordination between the two departments, North/South and East/West.

While we are a devolved administration I expect the Executive to have increased emphasis on our local / regional approach.

We must implement a widespread community testing & tracing programme.

As an island with two jurisdictions we must have a common approach across the island, including on modelling. There must be more regular North/South Ministerial meetings and I want to see the Memorandum of Understanding which has been devised, concluded and implemented with absolute urgency in the coming days.

The British and Irish governments are both members of the United Nations of which the World Health Organisation is located, therefore we should naturally be working with the WHO and international community.

The public information campaign which has now rolled out is very much welcome. This is good progress. I want us to appoint a director of strategic communications who is responsible for oversight and coordination, above and beyond what is being provided currently by EIS.

Communication with the public must be more than sufficient throughout this crisis using public health advice and guidance which is readily understood, including the behavioural change expected and statutory enforcement regime.

The civil response at community level to support people is vital. In order to strengthen our resilience we need to establish, without delay, a uniformed network of civil defence committees throughout the 11



Council areas, and give practical help and aid to every citizen, and protecting the most vulnerable through a multi-agency and community response.

Any Executive strategy has to be robust, but also agile, flexible and capable of adapting to changing circumstances as time and the pandemic moves into different stages.

I trust that this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Michelle O'Neill MLA

[28/03/2020, 19:26:43] Michelle O'Neill: Hey I sent this to David Sterling earlier, in advance of what he is producing for Monday. Hope you are getting bit of a rest this evening. M

[31/03/2020, 11:54:12] Michelle O'Neill: Are you ok to agree exec meeting for tomorrow at say 12 so we can get it in the diary for all ministers.

[31/03/2020, 11:55:52] Arlene: Yes I think 12 is a good time to start. Content for mon, wed and Friday for executive.

[31/03/2020, 12:02:19] Michelle O'Neill: Great

[02/04/2020, 10:46:53] Michelle O'Neill: Are you going to Belfast for the press today?

[02/04/2020, 10:47:51] Arlene: Yes was going to. But happy to get another minister to do it if you want to get someone from your side

[02/04/2020, 10:49:03] Michelle O'Neill: ok I will get Conor to go out

[02/04/2020, 17:18:39] Michelle O'Neill: Hey did we not agree to relax the rules so that people could go to church/chapel to pray?

[02/04/2020, 17:29:38] Arlene: That was before the legislation came in. I spoke to **NR** and said we would very much keep it under review. I also said if someone was out for 'exercise' and popped into church to pray on their own no one would say anything.

[02/04/2020, 17:32:43] Michelle O'Neill: ok great

[07/04/2020, 11:25:24] Michelle O'Neill: Hey I think we should go back to 3 days per week in long gallery for our joint press. Looks more professional.

[08/04/2020, 18:46:00] Michelle O'Neill: Think we have a way forward on the budget. Edwin is content and Nicola has accepted the explanation that we will work with her. So fingers crossed it won't be long meeting

[08/04/2020, 18:49:49] Arlene: 🍊

[09/04/2020, 11:34:09] Michelle O'Neill: <attached: 00000027-PHOTO-2020-04-09-11-34-09.jpg> **INQ000400586**

[15/04/2020, 16:35:16] Michelle O'Neill: Hi it will be 4.45 before I get up the hill

[15/04/2020, 16:45:15] Arlene: Let us know when you are here or pop down

[15/04/2020, 16:45:56] Michelle O'Neill: Ok I will come to you in few mins

[15/04/2020, 21:44:12] Michelle O'Neill: Hey I think without having exec agreement it wouldn't be wise for us to put forward those easements - we could only be creating a stick to beat ourselves with by other exec colleagues given Naomi view today. I'm suggesting we just say we are prepared to look at some of the common sense easements and we verbally can speak to the ones that we discussed ie graveyards, recycling, garden centres etc

[15/04/2020, 21:46:37] Arlene: Fair enough but I think we should at least indicate even Unofficially that if they come forward we would consider them positively.

[15/04/2020, 21:47:27] Michelle O'Neill: 🍊

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[23/04/2020, 11:06:15] Arlene: <attached: 00000041-Edwin Poots Temp .vcf> **[Irrelevant image]**  
[30/04/2020, 11:05:00] Michelle O'Neill: Hey I spoke to Simon Coveney briefly earlier, you free to take a quick call around 12 on a possible suggestion for the meeting at 1  
[30/04/2020, 11:05:35] Arlene: Yes or after this  
[30/04/2020, 11:05:52] Michelle O'Neill: Ok I will call you when we are done here  
[06/05/2020, 15:20:27] Michelle O'Neill: Hey Conor wants to announce the hospice stuff at press conference at 4 are you happy to clear it?  
[06/05/2020, 15:22:26] Michelle O'Neill: It's been circulated to other ministers  
[06/05/2020, 15:27:42] Arlene: Just cleared  
[06/05/2020, 15:27:51] Michelle O'Neill: 👍  
[07/05/2020, 10:31:27] Michelle O'Neill: Given that we are only going to go forward with the review of the regs today should we do a joint piece with Robin - a written assembly statement in advance of our presser?  
[07/05/2020, 10:34:30] Arlene: I think we should take ownership of face coverings which will be a story itself. Don't mind robin being involved. Written statement on regs review ok.  
[07/05/2020, 10:34:45] Michelle O'Neill: Ok I'm content with that  
[07/05/2020, 10:35:02] Michelle O'Neill: We can chat after this  
[07/05/2020, 12:14:11] Arlene: I am losing the will to live here  
[07/05/2020, 12:14:39] Michelle O'Neill: I know  
[07/05/2020, 12:28:24] Michelle O'Neill: Maybe we can cut the TEO paper discussion short by only inviting changes that need to be made as we recognise it needs more work??  
[07/05/2020, 12:28:47] Arlene: Yes agreed

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[10/05/2020, 12:48:09] Arlene: Are you on the zoom? I can't get in  
[10/05/2020, 12:48:17] Michelle O'Neill: I can't get in either  
[10/05/2020, 12:50:31] Michelle O'Neill: Carol on to them  
[10/05/2020, 12:50:51] Michelle O'Neill: There's a short delay to the start time  
[10/05/2020, 12:51:08] Michelle O'Neill: They're going to let us know when it'll start  
[10/05/2020, 12:51:16] Michelle O'Neill: 5/10 mins  
[10/05/2020, 12:55:25] Michelle O'Neill: Go on now  
[10/05/2020, 12:55:36] Arlene: Yes just in  
[10/05/2020, 12:55:48] Michelle O'Neill: 👍  
[11/05/2020, 13:39:11] Arlene: 'Briefly give us the highlights' 😊  
[11/05/2020, 13:43:47] Michelle O'Neill: I don't think he does brief 😊  
[12/05/2020, 09:59:11] Michelle O'Neill: Good luck to us today! Busy day ahead 😊  
[12/05/2020, 10:48:47] Arlene: Yup!  
[13/05/2020, 08:51:39] Michelle O'Neill: Will we do a joint call with Eddie Lynch the older persons commissioner this morning  
[13/05/2020, 09:37:31] Arlene: Yes am free now until 10.30  
[13/05/2020, 09:40:17] Michelle O'Neill: In a meeting will try get him for 10  
[13/05/2020, 10:05:22] Michelle O'Neill: No word back from him yet - let me know if you can do any other time  
[13/05/2020, 22:47:10] Michelle O'Neill: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**  
Very surprised at robins paper - this was not communicated with us when we launched our document 36 hours ago. Think it's confusing. We will need to discuss in advance of executive.  
Also want to talk about **NR** Can we do that in the morning  
M  
[13/05/2020, 22:55:49] Arlene: Yes I'll be on the road from 8.30. Although Ian young on Nolan this morning apparently said that r was at a level we could consider lifting some restrictions and Nolan is talking about it now - I've just switched it off. **I&S**

**I&S**

**I&S**



[13/05/2020, 22:57:08] Michelle O'Neill: I&S  
Think we putting exec back to 11

[13/05/2020, 22:57:20] Michelle O'Neill: Phillip and Stephen on phone so will see you in castle

[13/05/2020, 22:58:19] Arlene: 🙌

[14/05/2020, 17:23:55] Arlene: Michelle, should we set up a zoom call with church leaders tomorrow?

[14/05/2020, 19:13:57] Michelle O'Neill: Yeah happy to do that

[17/05/2020, 12:01:07] Michelle O'Neill: Good afternoon I&S  
Trying to put these two pieces of work to bed, (Gems & Rates) so that we are not back and forth all afternoon.  
Could you live with 'proceeding with' instead of 'working towards' then we can sign off  
M

[17/05/2020, 13:23:52] Arlene: I&S Philip is speaking to  
stephen to try and get both papers over the line. AF

[17/05/2020, 14:24:36] Arlene: Understand there is a willingness to extend rates relief to end of March for targeted group but no shift on extra three months for everyone. In an effort to get agreement could we do two extra months for everyone instead of one for everyone, as that is only 12m extra and would help me get others on board?

[17/05/2020, 14:31:05] Michelle O'Neill: Have pushed conor as far as I can push him. To get a shift to end of the year for everyone is a big lift from what he was proposing originally. I can't do anymore on it.

[17/05/2020, 14:32:17] Arlene: Ok - not sure I'll get my people to support it.

[17/05/2020, 14:34:35] Michelle O'Neill: We need the gems paper cleared on your end or else Conor can't put the amended rates paper in to the system

[17/05/2020, 14:34:55] Michelle O'Neill: It need to go today to share with other ministers

[17/05/2020, 14:37:06] Arlene: Yes but I can't sign off the rate paper as I've said I don't think my guys will support. I will need to ask them again but pretty clear we needed three months for all. I am trying to suggest 2 as a compromise but you are saying that can't be done.

[17/05/2020, 14:40:07] Michelle O'Neill: conor didn't want to move to end of year at all. I had to really push hard to get him to shift. It took me hours to get him this far. He won't go any further. If you aren't agreeing his paper he will come back to me to say he will submit the original proposal

[17/05/2020, 14:41:49] Michelle O'Neill: Took me the entire weekend to get to this point

[18/05/2020, 15:02:18] Michelle O'Neill: Use that conor is making a statement to the assembly to say that's why paper needs to be taken today

[18/05/2020, 15:24:24] Arlene: Naomi and Nicola are some tag team today!

[18/05/2020, 15:24:38] Michelle O'Neill: Absolutely

[22/05/2020, 14:56:54] Arlene: What's your view on this quarantine fine? I think it should be £1,000 to send a strong message - £60 is derisory and will mean nothing to a businessman travelling.

[03/06/2020, 07:43:17] Arlene: I see we are taking more bad press on the victims pension payment. Are you going to sign the letter to designate the department of justice to go forward or not? If not it will have much wider ramifications.

[03/06/2020, 07:54:48] Michelle O'Neill: We need to talk about it, happy to chat 2moro when we have executive as I will be in Belfast then

[04/06/2020, 21:00:59] Michelle O'Neill: Are you as inundated as I am on local shops?

[04/06/2020, 21:01:09] Michelle O'Neill: shoes & clothes

[07/06/2020, 18:32:24] Michelle O'Neill: Hello, hope you had a nice weekend...just checking you are for opening all other small retail with immediate effect 2moro

[07/06/2020, 19:07:25] Arlene: I'll check how Phil has got on with cmo

[10/06/2020, 14:08:03] Arlene: I believe NR was incredibly disrespectful to me today. I think that is really poor.

[10/06/2020, 14:09:43] Michelle O'Neill: He def recorded their annoyance that you hadn't met him in 3years. Thought Gordon handled it well though.

[10/06/2020, 14:11:57] Arlene: That's actually not true

[10/06/2020, 14:12:38] Michelle O'Neill: Might be worth putting a call in to him

[10/06/2020, 14:29:58] Arlene: I have no intention of putting a call into someone who has so little respect for the office I hold

[10/06/2020, 14:30:34] Michelle O'Neill: Did you see the photos, they are good

[10/06/2020, 14:33:06] Arlene: Didn't see all of them just a few. Yes they look grand



[11/06/2020, 10:22:24] Michelle O'Neill: We were advised she had urgent business not that she internet problems 🙄

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[13/06/2020, 11:58:04] Michelle O'Neill: Good morning, two quick things.

I spoke to Diane and asked her to bring forward a paper on indicative dates for all sectors for Monday. Secondly have had Nicola Mallon on phone- the meeting between spads has now happened, so it's a political call now. I'm content with the proposed legislation and happy to proceed. Where are you with this as she will bring her paper back on Monday.

[13/06/2020, 12:07:10] Arlene: Not content at moment as runs contrary to st Andrews agreement. Will speak to Emma later to see if any progress has been made. Hat about the churches group?

[13/06/2020, 12:07:48] Michelle O'Neill: Do you mean meeting the churches group - happy to meet

[13/06/2020, 12:11:28] Arlene: There is a sub that you haven't cleared

[13/06/2020, 12:12:10] Michelle O'Neill: Will chase up thought I had cleared it and was prepared to meet yesterday

[13/06/2020, 12:47:59] Arlene: 👍

[14/06/2020, 14:29:08] Michelle O'Neill: Tried to ring you. Deirdre going to step down temporarily

**I&S**

**I&S**

I will appoint Carál for a few weeks. Michelle

[14/06/2020, 15:30:15] Arlene: Ok was making lunch. Will catch up later about exec tomorrow if that suits.

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[18/06/2020, 13:29:08] Michelle O'Neill: We legally have to do the review of regs by today do we not

[18/06/2020, 13:29:34] Arlene: That's the paper we have already passed

[18/06/2020, 13:30:48] Michelle O'Neill: We have said we will move to phase 2 of families support bubble within 2 weeks

[18/06/2020, 13:30:58] Michelle O'Neill: said that on Monday

[18/06/2020, 13:31:11] Arlene: Would you want to say that

[22/06/2020, 18:00:38] Arlene: Have you seen these RQIA resignations?

[22/06/2020, 18:00:48] Michelle O'Neill: Yes it's huge stuff

[22/06/2020, 18:01:24] Arlene: I can't understand why he didn't tell us today

[22/06/2020, 18:01:54] Michelle O'Neill: Yes I agree. We should ask go speak to him on it?

[22/06/2020, 18:02:08] Michelle O'Neill: this evening or In the morning

[22/06/2020, 18:04:22] Michelle O'Neill: I also see Nicola has made announcements without telling us today

[22/06/2020, 18:04:37] Michelle O'Neill: On MOT and driving tests

[22/06/2020, 18:27:49] Arlene: Didn't see that but she would be first to criticise

[25/06/2020, 18:05:54] Arlene: Did you see Naomi's letter! Waiting on Nicolas

[25/06/2020, 18:07:42] Michelle O'Neill: I heard about it! They should spend more time working 🙄

[27/06/2020, 15:14:16] Arlene: See communication from DVA to all driving instructors.

To all Approved Driving Instructors and Approved Motorcycle Instructors

The Coronavirus pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge, resulting in many changes to our way of life. In March, the difficult decision was taken to suspend most of Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) services in line with government guidance. The priority over the past three months has been to keep people safe. However, that decision has been a significant challenge for our customers, including Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs) and Approved Motorcycle Instructors (AMIs) in managing their businesses and supporting learner drivers.

As you are aware, whilst the DVA is responsible for regulating the ADI/AMI industry, it does not employ ADIs/AMIs in the capacity of delivering driving instruction and therefore has no remit to suspend your services for public health reasons or determine when you might return to work. I appreciate there remains some uncertainty about the date driving lessons can resume. It was wrongly reported that Driving Instructors could resume work from 6 July 2020 - for clarification, driving Instructors were not specifically mentioned in the list of businesses in the Regulations that were closed down due to COVID 19 therefore that is why I am advised they were also not listed within the close contact businesses to reopen from 6 July 2020 which was issued by the Executive Office. In preparation for re-starting, it may



be helpful to look through the training resources on the ADI National Joint Council website, which you can access through via the following link <https://www.adinjc.org.uk/training-resources/>

As we head into a period where the restrictions placed on all of us are beginning to change, we have been able to announce details on our plans for resuming services, including DVA driver services. I am also pleased to be able to confirm that Driver Theory Tests in Northern Ireland will resume from 6 July. I met earlier this week with NIAIC to listen to your concerns and gather feedback from the industry, which will help us develop new operating procedures and up to date guidance.

I will continue to provide you with specific details of our plans, including key dates and information on how we will manage our phased return to full service delivery. Practical driving tests for cars will be resumed as soon as possible but the priority must be that they can be provided safely for staff and customers and we will continue to be guided by PHA advice in this regard. Unfortunately, no date for resumption has yet been agreed. The DVA continues to work as quickly as possible to find a way forward that will keep you, your customers and staff safe.

I sincerely thank you for your continued support and I appreciate this has been a very worrying and difficult time for the industry. Please be assured I will continue to provide you with regular updates.

**NR**

Registrar  
Department for Infrastructure  
Driver & Vehicle Agency

Business Support Unit, Driver & Vehicle Standards  
66 Balmoral Road  
Malone Lower  
Belfast  
BT12 6QL

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/motoring>

New Final DVA email signature

[27/06/2020, 15:15:08] Arlene: Nicola has put this out to say driving instructors should not start back on 6th - I thought we were clear on this at the executive?

[27/06/2020, 15:50:09] Michelle O'Neill: I thought her and Diane were to discuss and come back Monday?

[27/06/2020, 15:51:11] Michelle O'Neill: Her colleagues were advertising on social media that they could start on 6th July

[27/06/2020, 15:51:30] Arlene: No we said it was close contact so should be same as hairdressers etc. She tried to push to Diane and away from herself - as usual. We will need to give clarity on Monday.

[27/06/2020, 15:53:05] Michelle O'Neill: Yes we will need to do that

[01/07/2020, 13:38:38] Arlene: Do you want to come down for a chat now

[23/07/2020, 10:21:51] Michelle O'Neill: Hi are you in PB yet? Want to get a discussion on travel if you are

[23/07/2020, 10:23:33] Arlene: No just leaving Fermanagh shortly

[23/07/2020, 10:37:04] Michelle O'Neill: ok

[26/07/2020, 21:46:23] Michelle O'Neill: Robin is requesting an urgent exec meeting - I'm content to agree

[26/07/2020, 21:46:49] Arlene: What's the agenda?

[26/07/2020, 21:47:23] Michelle O'Neill: It's in relation to the travellers from Spain

[26/07/2020, 21:47:31] Arlene: What time?

[26/07/2020, 21:47:54] Michelle O'Neill: It's up to us

[26/07/2020, 21:48:17] Michelle O'Neill: I'm flexible 2moro

[26/07/2020, 21:48:25] Michelle O'Neill: Maybe go for 12

[26/07/2020, 21:49:11] Arlene: Are you up? We have the joint meeting with RCN at 11 so maybe do 12.30?

[26/07/2020, 21:49:34] Michelle O'Neill: yeah I will be up. 12.30 is ok for me

[26/07/2020, 22:01:27] Arlene: Ok let's do it at 12.30 then  
[05/08/2020, 10:39:18] Michelle O'Neill: Hey are you arriving for 10.45?  
[05/08/2020, 10:41:08] Arlene: Yes  
[07/08/2020, 08:08:01] Michelle O'Neill: Morning, I couldn't rearrange a personal appointment that I have this morning. So pass on my apologies to Michael please.

Conor sent me this if you wanted to raise it with him.

Peace Plus is a combination of Peace and Intereg. The EU have committed €250m and the British govt €300m (3/4) and Dublin €100m (1/4) of their joint contribution bringing it currently to €650m. Dublin are willing to commit a further €60m which would require the British govt to add another €180m to match fund that. The EU addition to that could bring the total Peace Plus up to €1bn which would be huge. If you and Arlene were able to raise that with Michael Gove to engage with Dublin to increase the Peace Plus package

[07/08/2020, 08:09:44] Arlene: Ok will do.

[15/08/2020, 23:20:45] Arlene: Hello [redacted] I&S notice you have been ringing this afternoon. Can give you a call tomorrow if you still need to speak with me.

[16/08/2020, 13:07:15] Michelle O'Neill: You got lovely weather [redacted] I&S so enjoy!

Wanted to get a chat about exam results issue. Potential for this Thursday to be more messy than the Alevels.

Dara has been speaking to Peter Martin for me as I think there needs to be an intervention. Peter will be pulled before the assembly this week once if not twice and he would be better to head it off with perhaps a statement and an underlining commitment to; in the A level scenario to award the highest grade from the AS result, teacher predicted grade or the CCEA grade.

Then in the scenario of the GCSEs the highest grade from either the mocks (if that information is available), the teacher predicted grade or the CCEA grade should be awarded.

Let me know what you think

[16/08/2020, 15:45:32] Arlene: Peter is engaging with CCEA with a view to saying something tomorrow around GCSEs. As regards A levels the appeals process as you know has been significantly widened to deal with any issues. Difference with GCSE is that there is no verifiable data unlike Alevels where you have GCSEs and A/S grades. You should get Dara to have another conversation with Peter Martin this evening. A

[19/08/2020, 15:53:52] Michelle O'Neill: Hi are you still away or are you coming in for executive meeting 2moro?

[19/08/2020, 15:57:42] Arlene: I'll be zooming in from [redacted] I&S

[19/08/2020, 15:58:06] Michelle O'Neill: Ok, was just thinking about press afterwards

[19/08/2020, 15:58:10] Michelle O'Neill: Enjoy

[21/08/2020, 12:31:44] Michelle O'Neill: Hi tried to get you there. I am agreeing to designate justice on back of court ruling.

[21/08/2020, 12:39:05] Arlene: Ok.

[25/08/2020, 12:38:41] Michelle O'Neill: Can you take a call in about half hour on David sterling situation

[25/08/2020, 12:43:33] Arlene: No sorry won't be free until this afternoon post 4pm

[25/08/2020, 12:44:23] Michelle O'Neill: do you want to call me then post 4

[25/08/2020, 12:46:19] Arlene: Will do

[02/09/2020, 13:36:55] Michelle O'Neill: Was speaking to sean Lynch on that issue of you want to give me a call when free

[10/09/2020, 16:59:58] Arlene: Gordon Lyons tells me Naomi was NOT on the call with Patmaster general !!

[10/09/2020, 17:00:12] Michelle O'Neill: Yes Declan just said

[10/09/2020, 17:10:54] Arlene: That's ten mins now

[10/09/2020, 17:11:32] Michelle O'Neill: I know

[10/09/2020, 17:12:26] Michelle O'Neill: Maybe say we need to move immediately haven't time to wait - that's the advice of the CMO

[10/09/2020, 17:13:13] Michelle O'Neill: can make announcements and work on detail of regs etc before start of week

[10/09/2020, 17:13:42] Michelle O'Neill: she is a joke



[10/09/2020, 17:30:27] Arlene: Propose that we should take both papers  
[11/09/2020, 08:56:53] Arlene: Should we do a written statement on changes today to keep things right with assembly?

[11/09/2020, 08:59:20] Michelle O'Neill: I think Robin needs to do the written statement  
[11/09/2020, 09:00:49] Arlene: I said that to him and he said it may have more weight from us ....  
[11/09/2020, 09:04:09] Michelle O'Neill: Yes but robin wants it both ways, he wants our cover but then wants to own it himself. Maybe time for a slight change of tact with everyone including Naomi and Nicola.

[11/09/2020, 09:06:41] Michelle O'Neill: Thought it was interesting that robin also mentioned extending the mandate, clearly Doug wasn't thinking out loud

[11/09/2020, 09:07:05] Arlene: Agreed on that- they want us to be collective when it suits them.

[11/09/2020, 09:09:22] Michelle O'Neill: <attached: 00000192-PHOTO-2020-09-11-09-09-22.jpg> **INQ000400588**

[11/09/2020, 09:16:11] Arlene: So much for collective decision making. I also think it was her that briefed bbc on e u mtg, as I recognised some of her language in davenports report.

[11/09/2020, 09:19:05] Michelle O'Neill: yeah he had it word for word

[11/09/2020, 11:07:52] Michelle O'Neill: Exec meetings in person might be best way to go forward

[11/09/2020, 11:50:47] Arlene: I agree - if people have to attend in person may cut it down, although Naomi will probably claim it's her human right to zoom!

[11/09/2020, 11:58:14] Arlene: Should we send out a memo saying that the next executive meeting will be in person?

[11/09/2020, 12:14:10] Michelle O'Neill: yeah I think so

[11/09/2020, 16:29:23] Michelle O'Neill: Spoke to Stephen who had been dealing with the other parties and they are adamant that there must be an executive this evening. We did commit to it so I think we need to do it to explain what has happened today and what will happen next.

**I&S**

[15/09/2020, 18:12:29] Michelle O'Neill: And do you need us to postpone HOCs interviews?

**I&S**

[15/09/2020, 20:06:05] Arlene: **I&S** I'll text my ps and tell her to reschedule interviews. Sorry about this.

[15/09/2020, 20:17:53] Michelle O'Neill: **I&S** we can rearrange

[16/09/2020, 20:23:20] Michelle O'Neill: **I&S** could you let me know if you are going to be able to do executive meeting tomorrow or if you are deputising a co chair for the meeting. I have suggested that it is a zoom meeting just to keep things right, especially given the cabinet meeting situation in Dublin this week.

[16/09/2020, 20:27:04] Arlene: Yes I said to my PS given Naomi's note we should probably do remotely by zoom. I will do by zoom if at all possible.

[16/09/2020, 20:28:59] Michelle O'Neill: ok, **I&S**

[22/09/2020, 08:53:21] Michelle O'Neill: We were given the wrong information on two fronts again. Single households and maintenance in homes is painters etc

[22/09/2020, 08:53:45] Michelle O'Neill: what we said yesterday and what was in the regulations was different

[22/09/2020, 09:25:11] Arlene: I know- got the email early this morning.

[22/09/2020, 16:09:22] Michelle O'Neill: Where are you with closing time? Paper just in from Karen

[22/09/2020, 16:09:33] Michelle O'Neill: Prob required a cmo discussion

[22/09/2020, 16:09:39] Michelle O'Neill: Requires

[22/09/2020, 18:28:25] Arlene: My preference in accordance with the cmo is 10pm

[22/09/2020, 18:29:14] Michelle O'Neill: did you see sub from Karen - it requires primary legislation

[22/09/2020, 18:29:26] Michelle O'Neill: Which means it can't be in place for opening 2moro

[22/09/2020, 18:29:36] Arlene: Yes we will have to do accelerated passage

[27/09/2020, 16:52:58] Michelle O'Neill: good afternoon, **I&S**

**I&S** I'm worried I won't be fit to do orals 2moro. I was going to ask Declan, however the protocol is that I ask you first and if you are not able to cover then i ask Declan to



take them. Can you let me know soon as possible so Declan can prepare if that's the preferred way to proceed. Michelle

[27/09/2020, 17:02:05] Arlene: [I&S] I can do the questions I'll get them sent down now - Declan can do the ones he was down for. [I&S]

[27/09/2020, 17:04:05] Michelle O'Neill: Thank you.

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[28/09/2020, 19:33:50] Michelle O'Neill: Thanks for today. I intend to be back on Wednesday, Declan will proxy for me again 2moro

[28/09/2020, 22:31:24] Arlene: No bother. [I&S]

[02/10/2020, 11:22:29] Arlene: Steve is so arrogant

[02/10/2020, 11:22:54] Michelle O'Neill: Absolutely

[02/10/2020, 11:23:28] Michelle O'Neill: We would need to be careful on this one

[04/10/2020, 18:51:22] Michelle O'Neill: It appears that lots of statutory partners are being consulted around potential lock down but not ourselves.

[04/10/2020, 18:55:00] Arlene: The Match a Bellaghy today is also sending people mad. Have you seen the crowds.

[04/10/2020, 18:55:14] Michelle O'Neill: No haven't saw it yet

[04/10/2020, 18:55:21] Michelle O'Neill: Will get a look

[05/10/2020, 12:19:35] Arlene: If teo are taking forward paper on risk analysis then Karen will need more help

[05/10/2020, 12:20:06] Michelle O'Neill: Yes and I just asked Donal to find out exactly what she is producing

[06/10/2020, 17:11:02] Michelle O'Neill: <attached: 00000237-PHOTO-2020-10-06-17-11-02.jpg>

**INQ000400589**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[09/10/2020, 10:47:01] Michelle O'Neill: Will give you a ring on it shortly

[09/10/2020, 10:54:33] Arlene: Ok thanks

[09/10/2020, 10:55:09] Michelle O'Neill: Any notion of what chancellor will announce on furlough

[09/10/2020, 10:55:42] Arlene: Trying to find out but looks positive - well more positive than yesterday

[09/10/2020, 10:58:51] Michelle O'Neill: yes absolutely

[09/10/2020, 13:31:16] Michelle O'Neill: Apologies my phone died

[09/10/2020, 13:41:28] Arlene: 👍

[10/10/2020, 12:55:47] Arlene: There is only point in having a meeting tomorrow if we have all the data and evidence to have a discussion. I see little point in another meeting where we are told about how bad it is without the evidence to back it up or indeed if the interventions proposed would be effective on the virus.

[10/10/2020, 13:00:05] Michelle O'Neill: we need to take urgent decisions and take them for Monday. So if you need more data then request what you need. We should be trying to have something decided in advance of Monday.

[10/10/2020, 13:03:42] Arlene: So what restrictions are you putting in place without knowing the impact they will have? Are you content that we go into continual circuit breakers? I thought we were going to take a step by step approach based on a plan?

[10/10/2020, 13:07:27] Michelle O'Neill: yes we need a plan for sure. We also need to take immediate decisions. The health service is not going to be able to cope if we don't. We have been given much information on the impacts and there isn't any good outcome here. We are aiming for least worst option and mitigating as much as we possibly can. I think it appears we may need circuit breaker more than once, but will need full analysis of first one.

Where are you with what you think needs to happen next?

[10/10/2020, 13:18:31] Arlene: Philip and stephen have been speaking and are hoping to speak to Karen to pull together what a plan looks like. I did ask for information last night and frankly got very little back - it's like pulling teeth. When I asked for postcode data I am told it's not publicly available! Very good I'm not the public. Let see how the guys get on with Karen. I am not in favour of going to a circuit breaker



immediately - hasn't been done anywhere else.

[12/10/2020, 14:19:19] Michelle O'Neill: We need to talk about next steps. Time is not in our side

[12/10/2020, 14:25:32] Arlene: Happy to do so.

[12/10/2020, 20:01:21] Michelle O'Neill: We need to settle a time for executive meeting 2moro as we need to give people notice.

[12/10/2020, 20:01:29] Michelle O'Neill: suggest 11?

[12/10/2020, 20:06:13] Arlene: I think we could do over lunch and then my questions are not til 2.45 so that gives us space, otherwise some ministers are in chamber

[12/10/2020, 20:07:53] Michelle O'Neill: ok let's go for 1 start then

[12/10/2020, 20:08:40] Michelle O'Neill: Actually you are up at 2pm so would need to start at 11.30/12

[12/10/2020, 20:08:59] Arlene: No 2.45 as I swapped with economy

[12/10/2020, 20:16:57] Michelle O'Neill: Oh ok

[12/10/2020, 20:20:04] Michelle O'Neill: Tried to ring to finish our conversation from earlier

[12/10/2020, 20:20:53] Arlene: Still in car - will call later if that's ok

[12/10/2020, 20:21:05] Michelle O'Neill: Yes sure

[13/10/2020, 13:00:26] Michelle O'Neill: Regardless of the outcome we need to set an executive time right now as 7 deaths are reported and 3 exec parties are going to force exec to be called and that is not good

[13/10/2020, 13:01:25] Arlene: How will they do that?

[13/10/2020, 13:01:59] Michelle O'Neill: Are you finished can you talk

[13/10/2020, 15:40:58] Arlene: You clearly don't want an executive today with your amendments to Karen's paper. If that's your position we can come back at this tomorrow, we should probably let Robin know.

[13/10/2020, 15:41:35] Michelle O'Neill: will ring you in a minute

[13/10/2020, 19:35:25] Arlene: On zoom now

[13/10/2020, 19:47:15] Michelle O'Neill: Let me know when you are free

[13/10/2020, 19:47:37] Arlene: Free now

[13/10/2020, 23:09:38] Michelle O'Neill: I won't put any ministers out on media in morning to give assembly its place. Will prob but Chris out to cover to lunch

[13/10/2020, 23:09:45] Michelle O'Neill: Put

[13/10/2020, 23:56:57] Michelle O'Neill: We will bring the tiered approach which will show way out on Thursday?

[14/10/2020, 00:27:50] Arlene: Can you say at end re making a statement in assembly tomorrow so no comments should be made by ministers until assembly is given its place.

[14/10/2020, 00:28:03] Michelle O'Neill: Yes

[14/10/2020, 00:28:18] Arlene: Shouldn't \*

[14/10/2020, 00:28:30] Michelle O'Neill: I got it lol

[14/10/2020, 09:21:17] Arlene: We would need to be able to talk about support packages tomorrow - will you speak to Conor?

[14/10/2020, 09:29:18] Michelle O'Neill: Yes he is on it. Also Diane and him should meet today.

How are you this morning? It's exhausting isn't it

[14/10/2020, 09:29:56] Arlene: Got home at 2, so not much sleep.

[14/10/2020, 16:07:17] Arlene: I'm content with junior minister suggestion

[14/10/2020, 16:07:37] Michelle O'Neill: Yes me too

[14/10/2020, 16:42:13] Michelle O'Neill: On this call with Derek

[15/10/2020, 14:46:19] Arlene: You deleted this message.

[16/10/2020, 13:52:25] Michelle O'Neill: Are you ok with the statement - it's straight forward and everyone else is ok with it

[16/10/2020, 13:52:46] Arlene: No will send thru amendments

[16/10/2020, 13:52:57] Michelle O'Neill: ok

[16/10/2020, 15:28:40] Michelle O'Neill: will give you a ring on spectators stuff shortly

[20/10/2020, 20:50:52] Michelle O'Neill: Any thing from Diane yet?

[20/10/2020, 22:01:54] Arlene: Think she's going to send in morning first thing

[21/10/2020, 08:11:19] Michelle O'Neill: Quicker we can get Diane's package out the quicker we can deflect this headline of flimsy evidence

[21/10/2020, 08:11:56] Arlene: I agree - dreadful stuff. Robin needs to front up on it



[21/10/2020, 08:21:43] Michelle O'Neill: I text him to say that  
 [27/10/2020, 14:41:58] Arlene: Michelle, Conor has sent out a Letter re stopping appointments to SCS without speaking to either me, economy or education minister. We all have appointments to make and the economy perm Sec interviews took place just yesterday! What is going on???

[27/10/2020, 14:44:50] Michelle O'Neill: On a meeting will call you afterwards  
 [27/10/2020, 14:45:14] Michelle O'Neill: Prob be after the conversation with leo  
 [03/11/2020, 09:27:31] Michelle O'Neill: Are you in PB, you and I should get a cup of tea and a chat if you are free now  
 [03/11/2020, 09:27:47] Arlene: No not up til later  
 [05/11/2020, 13:20:06] Michelle O'Neill: I would prefer we try to get a way forward before the weekend.  
 [07/11/2020, 14:33:00] Michelle O'Neill: can you take a call.  
 [07/11/2020, 14:40:32] Arlene: Give me ten mins  
 [07/11/2020, 14:40:46] Michelle O'Neill: Ok  
 [07/11/2020, 15:20:38] Michelle O'Neill: For ease of communication this is what we would be agreeing to ask them to model. And then we set this out in the context of our wider response;

As part of our balanced approach to dealing with the virus,

from 13th November close contact services such as hairdressers and beauticians will be able to re-open by appointment.

Retail will continue, and hospitality will reopen in a graduated and controlled manner.

Cafes, coffee shops and unlicensed premises will open from the 13th.

Hotels and all restaurants will be permitted to reopen with alcohol sales prohibited from 23rd November.

Pubs and bars will be permitted to sell sealed off sales from the 13th,

Wet pubs will reopen on 2 December.

Competitive sports fixtures can recommence from 23rd November in line with the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 9) Regulations (NI) 2020.

The household restrictions remain -These include the mixing of households in private homes and gardens, marriages and funerals, indoor sport, and indoor attractions and libraries, and will reflect the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 9) Regulations (NI) 2020 in those particular areas.

[07/11/2020, 15:21:29] Arlene: Can we agree to open all restaurants but not serve alcohol on 13th?

[07/11/2020, 15:22:04] Michelle O'Neill: Would prefer longer lead in time

[07/11/2020, 15:22:57] Arlene: But there is no difference between a cafe and a restaurant - only difference is the alcohol. Remember I asked Ian about this

[07/11/2020, 15:23:11] Michelle O'Neill: ok

[07/11/2020, 15:39:59] Michelle O'Neill: I'm going to pull my team together at 4 - so are we agreed that this as our plan

[07/11/2020, 15:41:24] Arlene: Still waiting to hear back from some colleagues

[09/11/2020, 11:52:18] Arlene: Are you going to stick to agreement we had yesterday or has that changed too. We need to get a paper into the system so it would be helpful if at least Steven would speak to philip.

[19/11/2020, 18:44:33] Michelle O'Neill: Robin should make the written statement to the assembly

[19/11/2020, 19:10:44] Arlene: Agreed

[21/11/2020, 15:12:37] Michelle O'Neill: <attached: 00000313-PHOTO-2020-11-21-15-12-37.jpg>

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[25/11/2020, 09:36:33] Michelle O'Neill: I think we should push for a paper for tomorrow's executive which states what hospitality will look like on the 11th all being well. ie 2m vs 1m, closing time, etc

[25/11/2020, 09:37:49] Arlene: Yes but also we need Karen's paper circulated today for discussion tomorrow - impt we keep the momentum on better news and a plan



[25/11/2020, 09:38:07] Michelle O'Neill: Yes I agree

[26/11/2020, 13:58:22] Arlene: <attached: 00000317-PHOTO-2020-11-26-13-58-22.jpg> INQ000400591

[26/11/2020, 13:58:55] Michelle O'Neill: Yip

[26/11/2020, 14:17:35] Michelle O'Neill: Can you chair for 2mins to i nip out to take a quick call

[26/11/2020, 14:20:13] Michelle O'Neill: I'm back

[28/11/2020, 14:47:18] Arlene: See robin is not happy - he has sent a letter re task force.

[28/11/2020, 14:48:05] Michelle O'Neill: haven't saw it. Will get a look

[01/12/2020, 09:51:13] Arlene: Health briefing the task force will bring a level of bureaucracy. They don't like us being involved

[01/12/2020, 09:51:36] Michelle O'Neill: I agree

[01/12/2020, 09:51:44] Michelle O'Neill: health not being very helpful here

[01/12/2020, 09:51:57] Michelle O'Neill: Very strained conversation

[03/12/2020, 17:45:13] Michelle O'Neill: Should we ask junior ministers to complete the meeting so we can go live at 6

[03/12/2020, 17:45:35] Arlene: How do you think they would take that?

[03/12/2020, 17:45:43] Arlene: The other ministers I mean

[03/12/2020, 17:45:57] Michelle O'Neill: Yeah maybe a kick back alright

[03/12/2020, 17:46:19] Arlene: Why not raise it and see what reaction is

[04/12/2020, 11:20:30] Arlene: That's is a disgrace about Jenny

[04/12/2020, 11:27:17] Michelle O'Neill: Really is

[04/12/2020, 11:28:13] Michelle O'Neill: will you vote on block to support the bill

[04/12/2020, 11:29:32] Arlene: We are still discussing

[04/12/2020, 11:29:39] Michelle O'Neill: Ok

[07/12/2020, 16:08:32] Michelle O'Neill: Are you still about for us to discuss a few things

[15/12/2020, 10:02:54] Michelle O'Neill: will we do meeting with conor now on budget instead

[16/12/2020, 16:50:12] Arlene: Why are you blocking the 4 nation statement? It will play out very badly especially since our cmo and csa are backing it?

[18/12/2020, 09:49:31] Arlene: "The DUP worked against the entire public health advice" - what were you talking about on morning Ireland. Do you want to fight me today because if you do so be it, but I don't think it is a particularly good look to be battling at this time do you?

[18/12/2020, 09:56:19] Michelle O'Neill: Arlene i was responding to a criticism of the entire executive and the current situation we find ourselves in due to not having the appropriate approach to covid on precious occasions when stronger interventions were required. I'm not absorbing the blame for that. What they don't quote is that I also said that there is unanimity among all of us that this intervention is the correct one.

No desire to battle. Much prefer to work together to get out the other side of this, Including on public messaging. It was a mistake to not do joint media last night. In media today I will be talking about where we are now and what we are trying to achieve.

[18/12/2020, 10:00:03] Arlene: Michelle you refused to sign off a 4 nations statement on wed night despite the fact that cmo and csa wanted it just because it was UK- you have no respect for the position of NI within the UK and by extension no respect for me. I have tried to work with you but you go back on agreements around where we are on covid and take every opportunity to stick the boot into the DUP despite the fact that you are the one interviewed by police about breaking regulations. I totally despair.

[18/12/2020, 11:11:46] Michelle O'Neill: Let's get a in person conversation on Monday

[18/12/2020, 11:12:41] Michelle O'Neill: If I am asked about it in press today I will be ignoring it and focusing on the collective effort of the executive over next 6 weeks

[19/12/2020, 20:47:04] Michelle O'Neill: Hi I know it's difficult for some of your team to meet on a Sunday but I think this is exceptional times. We are inundated with travel queries. Would like us to get agreement on having an executive meeting 2moro.

[19/12/2020, 21:08:52] Arlene: No point meeting for the sake of it. Much better to get clarity and I've asked SosNI to let us have details on travel ASAP which we can then circulate.

[20/12/2020, 13:52:36] Michelle O'Neill: I'm still of a view we need an executive meeting today. Robin is asking for one now too. There will be an announcement on travel from Dublin today also which will again put us in sharp focus.

[20/12/2020, 13:53:50] Michelle O'Neill: I believe at official level we will have more clarity in afternoon so suggest we meet this evening.



[20/12/2020, 14:02:34] Arlene: There is only point in meeting if we have travel clarity. It will have to be 9pm as I have church at 7.

[20/12/2020, 14:35:19] Michelle O'Neill: Ok

[04/01/2021, 15:59:29] Michelle O'Neill: On a meeting now but was just going to suggest that we tweet out that we will have an executive meeting this evening. Better to say it together if we can.

[04/01/2021, 16:00:04] Arlene: Yes ok thru EIS?

[04/01/2021, 16:01:07] Michelle O'Neill: Yes

[04/01/2021, 16:01:14] Michelle O'Neill: I will get Stephen to get on to them

[04/01/2021, 16:01:23] Arlene: 👍

[04/01/2021, 16:05:18] Michelle O'Neill: Shall we set exec for 6? Straight after the CDL call

[04/01/2021, 16:12:44] Arlene: Yes seems sensible

[04/01/2021, 16:14:14] Michelle O'Neill: Naomi now writing to us to ask us to meet

[04/01/2021, 16:14:23] Michelle O'Neill: Tweet it from your own account

[04/01/2021, 16:14:37] Michelle O'Neill: So she can't steal a March

[04/01/2021, 16:15:08] Arlene: 👍

[06/01/2021, 11:13:17] Michelle O'Neill: Good morning, good move from Peter on exams

[06/01/2021, 11:17:51] Arlene: Yes he pushed Gavin Williamson this morning

[12/01/2021, 12:20:19] Michelle O'Neill: Declan going to suggest a round table for us to do with retail & local government covid ambassadors

[12/01/2021, 12:20:50] Arlene: 👍

[12/01/2021, 12:20:52] Michelle O'Neill: A virtual round table!

Think it's a good idea and way for us to be proactive

[13/01/2021, 11:51:44] Arlene: Need to get these travel agents moved on. Need a quick scheme to get money out. DfE have now 27 schemes to administer and if dof are saying don't want to do it could we do it thru TEO?

[13/01/2021, 12:02:56] Michelle O'Neill: Let me get on to conor first and get back to you

[13/01/2021, 12:12:39] Arlene: 👍

[13/01/2021, 13:14:24] Michelle O'Neill: Conor saying he doesn't have capacity either but suggested that we could maybe ask invest to do it for us. This might be worth exploring given that we don't have the expertise in our team?? Happy to ask officials to approach them to see if they are open to this.

[13/01/2021, 16:00:54] Arlene: McGrath is a piece of work- if anyone was trying to start a row it was him!!

[13/01/2021, 16:05:14] Michelle O'Neill: from the very outset but we didn't give him it and he looks pathetic

[13/01/2021, 16:05:56] Michelle O'Neill: I wanted to go back and say yeah the public would like you to stop playing games but decided not too lol

[13/01/2021, 16:06:34] Michelle O'Neill: I thought our approach was much better today

[13/01/2021, 16:07:26] Arlene: Better definitely to break up opening remarks

[14/01/2021, 12:34:13] Michelle O'Neill: Give me a quick buzz on travel before the meeting starts please

[14/01/2021, 13:12:31] Michelle O'Neill: Any further thoughts on that suggestion on travel

[14/01/2021, 13:17:03] Arlene: I am content that you say we will further engage on travel - we have been speaking to both Michael Gove and Irish govt and will continue to speak to them.

[14/01/2021, 13:23:39] Michelle O'Neill: Don't think thats enough for me. We will just have to manage our difference

[18/01/2021, 09:58:09] Arlene: You looking for me- sorry am in the middle of something else - what's up?

[18/01/2021, 10:00:22] Michelle O'Neill: Was just looking to discuss the budget paper -but think that's resolved now. You are going to register your comments but let it go through isn't that correct?

Secondly would like to get a discussion over next day on the remaining monies that we have and best use of the them.

[19/01/2021, 10:13:22] Arlene: She is really taking the biscuit this morning

[19/01/2021, 10:13:33] Michelle O'Neill: Yes I agree

[19/01/2021, 10:14:08] Michelle O'Neill: We may send a written letter after the executive saying that saucy business needs to be dealt with directly with departments

[19/01/2021, 10:14:42] Michelle O'Neill: Declan and Gordon are for business committee - they need to be definitive about what we are asking for in scaling back of business

[19/01/2021, 10:14:53] Michelle O'Neill: we haven't actually agreed anything specific

[19/01/2021, 10:14:54] Arlene: Lol! I know you mean constituency but that's funny



[19/01/2021, 10:15:10] Michelle O'Neill: What's your thoughts on that  
[19/01/2021, 10:15:31] Michelle O'Neill: And 🤔 def meant constituency 😊  
[19/01/2021, 10:16:09] Arlene: Let's speak to Jenny about it at 11.30

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[20/01/2021, 02:32:18] Michelle O'Neill: Missed voice call  
[20/01/2021, 15:24:19] Arlene: Did you want to have a conversation about covid money?  
[20/01/2021, 15:25:23] Michelle O'Neill: Yes definetly. The monitoring round paper just highlights the amount we have left but happy for a political discussion on what we spend it on.  
[20/01/2021, 15:25:38] Michelle O'Neill: Will get on to Stephen to arrange time with Phillip  
[20/01/2021, 15:26:01] Arlene: Could we do that tomorrow morning before exec?  
[20/01/2021, 15:26:12] Michelle O'Neill: yes sure  
[28/01/2021, 14:10:28] Michelle O'Neill: We will be wide open to risk if we proceed. Maybe better to try convince jvci?  
[28/01/2021, 14:10:55] Arlene: Certainly very strong from cmo and Swann  
[28/01/2021, 14:17:28] Arlene: Can they take away and bring it back later today.  
[28/01/2021, 14:17:43] Michelle O'Neill: yes I will try that

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[18/02/2021, 11:49:45] Michelle O'Neill: Conor will do press conference **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[18/02/2021, 11:53:52] Arlene: Ok **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**I&S** Are you not up for announcing schools today? **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[18/02/2021, 11:54:38] Michelle O'Neill: It's only because it just came in and I haven't had a chance to digest it properly. Let's discuss it out and see where we get too.

[18/02/2021, 11:57:24] Arlene: 🙌

[18/02/2021, 12:45:31] Arlene: Do we in teo need to look at this loneliness issue as part of task force?

[18/02/2021, 12:46:18] Michelle O'Neill: yes we could, it's a genuine issue for so many that live alone

[18/02/2021, 12:55:36] Michelle O'Neill: **NR** sent you a message earlier, think it would be timely to do a meeting at some stage soon

[18/02/2021, 13:01:33] Arlene: Yes was going to go back later

[18/02/2021, 18:18:40] Michelle O'Neill: Students studying in Britain or the south still aren't getting access the £500 - could you push Diane on that, it's very unfair for them

[18/02/2021, 18:36:59] Arlene: She forwent have any legal power to pay them.

[18/02/2021, 18:39:52] Michelle O'Neill: could we do something via our department, same as we are doing for the travel agents?

[18/02/2021, 18:40:43] Arlene: Happy to explore that

[18/02/2021, 18:42:32] Michelle O'Neill: 🙌

[03/03/2021, 17:30:42] Michelle O'Neill: Arlene, we are still looking to have that 4 way meeting which **NR** has suggested.

I also think that you and I need a one to one meeting on executive relations. Happy to do it in person on Monday in the assembly or via the phone or zoom before hand.

[03/03/2021, 17:32:36] Arlene: Yes would be good to have a face to face as it has been a while. Let's do on Monday/Tuesday, when we are in Belfast

[03/03/2021, 17:40:55] Michelle O'Neill: Is your only issue with the fiscal council exec paper that it includes the commission?

[03/03/2021, 17:43:43] Arlene: If the two are separated out I think we will make progress on the fiscal council

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**



**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

[08/03/2021, 10:51:02] Michelle O'Neill: Can we agree a time to meet today  
[08/03/2021, 12:48:44] Arlene: 3.30 suits me - does it suit you?  
[08/03/2021, 13:08:42] Michelle O'Neill: Yes see you then  
[11/03/2021, 11:16:45] Michelle O'Neill: Conor's paper gives us a good news story today - are you going to clear it?  
[11/03/2021, 11:16:58] Arlene: Which one?  
[11/03/2021, 11:17:15] Michelle O'Neill: the rates extension for one year  
[11/03/2021, 11:17:48] Michelle O'Neill: Then our publicity will be rates and primary 1-3  
[11/03/2021, 11:21:59] Arlene: It is using up a lot of the covid money without any discussion about economic recovery overall. Is Conor going to speak about other priorities at the meeting eg how much for skills?  
[11/03/2021, 11:24:17] Michelle O'Neill: There is sufficient money for skills, voucher scheme etc he can speak to that if that's helpful  
There is £542.6m left for next year to be used  
[11/03/2021, 11:24:55] Michelle O'Neill: The grant scheme needs on also as there is only two weeks left to get the money out  
[11/03/2021, 12:18:49] Michelle O'Neill: Conor spoke to Diane, are we further on?  
[11/03/2021, 12:19:34] Arlene: I am on a zoom with Diane and he has not rang her  
[11/03/2021, 12:21:12] Michelle O'Neill: Mix up  
[11/03/2021, 12:21:16] Michelle O'Neill: He is ringing her now  
[11/03/2021, 12:21:25] Michelle O'Neill: On this number **Irrelevant & Sensitive**  
[11/03/2021, 14:32:26] Arlene: JMs could do  
[11/03/2021, 14:32:34] Michelle O'Neill: Yeah  
[11/03/2021, 14:41:57] Michelle O'Neill: We won't make the press at this rate 🙄  
[11/03/2021, 14:42:32] Arlene: Might need to push back to 5  
[11/03/2021, 15:16:05] Arlene: I need to be able to say that the economic recovery will be funded today  
[11/03/2021, 15:17:39] Michelle O'Neill: I don't think there is anything to stop you saying that.  
[11/03/2021, 15:18:32] Michelle O'Neill: Content of wider recovery - economic recovery, societal and community recovery type thing  
[11/03/2021, 15:18:36] Michelle O'Neill: Or I can say that  
[15/03/2021, 09:59:30] Michelle O'Neill: Good morning, have you a day and time to do that 4 way meeting we discussed  
[15/03/2021, 10:22:55] Arlene: No not yet  
[25/03/2021, 10:11:10] Michelle O'Neill: Good morning, I was led to believe that there are no show stoppers for you in the budget paper. Are you going to clear today and get it done. M  
[25/03/2021, 10:21:18] Arlene: No because police numbers aren't dealt with.  
[25/03/2021, 10:56:21] Arlene: Also just seen the line on victims pension which may well be illegal given the court judgement  
[15/04/2021, 08:25:18] Michelle O'Neill: Tried calling you yesterday evening. It would be better to get a conversation before the executive and try to get Robin on board particularly on hospitality  
[15/04/2021, 08:29:35] Arlene: Yes agreed. I'll give you a call after 9 - am just on a call  
[15/04/2021, 11:54:35] Michelle O'Neill: Any progress with Robin?  
[15/04/2021, 11:54:53] Arlene: Jenny tried but no movement  
[15/04/2021, 13:18:42] Arlene: Should we listen to where people are then try and get a consensus with health ?  
[15/04/2021, 13:18:56] Michelle O'Neill: Yes  
[15/04/2021, 13:19:14] Arlene: Will I take you next or at end  
[15/04/2021, 13:19:33] Michelle O'Neill: Bring me at end  
[15/04/2021, 13:19:46] Arlene: 👍  
[15/04/2021, 13:19:58] Michelle O'Neill: I think something we could concede I'd point 11 as it's confusing and very limited in return for an earlier date  
[15/04/2021, 13:20:13] Michelle O'Neill: Is  
[15/04/2021, 13:22:23] Arlene: Is that the post wedding??



[15/04/2021, 13:23:34] Michelle O'Neill: Yes because it says it can only be on roof tops, not in gazebos etc so it's limited in impact.

Maybe just hold it in reserve is if it helps get health over the line

[15/04/2021, 13:47:05] Michelle O'Neill: Are we going to meet health

[15/04/2021, 13:48:16] Arlene: Yes I'll text him

[15/04/2021, 15:27:00] Michelle O'Neill: We won't get everything, maybe try steer it towards getting health to accept all the outdoors hospitality on 30th

[15/04/2021, 15:28:06] Michelle O'Neill: on basis that outdoors is safer on indoors

[15/04/2021, 15:31:55] Michelle O'Neill: What do you think

[15/04/2021, 15:35:43] Arlene: Yes but would like to get hospitality to 24th

[15/04/2021, 15:36:17] Michelle O'Neill: What about then leaving the 10th as it is and trying the 24th

[15/04/2021, 15:36:35] Arlene: Ok

[16/04/2021, 13:30:46] Michelle O'Neill: **NR** in Belfast on Monday and we are seeking a leadership meeting with yourselves. We have agreed meetings with all other parties. Would you be able to accommodate that?

[16/04/2021, 20:31:58] Arlene: As I've already indicated thru Philip, Nigel isn't available and neither is rest of the party team. Perhaps your party person could speak to Tim Johnston, our Ceo as I indicated to

**NR** the last time we spoke on the phone. His number is **I&S** **AF**

[28/04/2021, 15:14:21] Michelle O'Neill: **I&S**

**I&S**

Stephen spoke to Phillip earlier. Just give a thought to tomorrow's executive, I think it should go ahead even if you aren't able to do it, perhaps nominate another on your behalf. Let me know your thinking on this if you get space. Michelle

[28/04/2021, 15:15:21] Arlene: Could I give you a call about 3.45? The executive should go ahead tomorrow.

[13/05/2021, 13:00:32] Arlene: What's your view on Portugal

[13/05/2021, 13:00:42] Michelle O'Neill: I think it's too difficult to explain

[13/05/2021, 13:01:04] Michelle O'Neill: If they are getting more info 2moro should we say nothing to then

[13/05/2021, 13:08:42] Michelle O'Neill: What do you think

[13/05/2021, 13:09:07] Arlene: There will be a really bad reaction

[13/05/2021, 14:44:26] Michelle O'Neill: Advice in on the travel piece if you want to take that first so it can be written up as we do the rest of meeting

[13/05/2021, 14:45:03] Arlene: 👍

[13/05/2021, 14:47:27] Arlene: Who has that advice

[13/05/2021, 14:49:48] Michelle O'Neill: Think it's just been circulated

[20/05/2021, 11:09:09] Michelle O'Neill: On the travel piece if you want to push robin to say he can live with the green list and day 8 test then I can go with that

[20/05/2021, 11:09:44] Arlene: 👍

[27/05/2021, 18:29:07] Michelle O'Neill: Congratulations on your victory today, It's only action like that which will put manners on those that think they can say what they want without repercussion.

I'm genuinely sorry if you don't get to bow out the way which you had planned. Politics is certainly not an easy path.

[27/05/2021, 19:30:44] Arlene: Thanks Michelle. Just felt you should know.

[18/06/2021, 12:42:26] Arlene: Thanks for the card and gifts which I picked up yesterday. 🍷 **AF**

[18/06/2021, 13:11:13] Michelle O'Neill: You are welcome. Take care

**I&S**