

28-5-20

10.38 FM Intro

① Minutes

FM Agreed? (Yes)

② COVID 19 update

DOH Paper circulated on 'R'
Slight increase in hospital admissions.
Care homes - reduced no. of confirmed
outbreaks, 48 homes have closed
outbreaks.

[] staff tested,

[] residents tested.

Since last week's NISRA publication
- constant breakdown of no. of deaths.

Deaths - 0 on Tuesday, 2 Sunday -
low numbers.

Trusts - re-engaging services as
quickly as poss

Efs Trust - cancer operations - 26
since Tues.

Repurposed Tower Block - City.

dfm Test rate
Trace - positive test cases.

DOH Paper last night
Para 39 - update on where we
are.

Pilot ended 17th.

Operational since [].

99 HSC staff deployed as tracers.
Supplied job description to DDF/MCS
Up + running since start of last week.

England starting now - have asked us for pointers.

DAERA Allied health - dentists/opticians
Professional bodies - emergency work only.
Need to resume services.

DOH Have been engaging.

CMO No legal barrier to operating -
advice - only urgent/emergency treat^m.
Limit procedures to 5 sites.
Eng/Scot - under review.
To unserve supplies of PPE.
Dental - urgent procedures -
can be managed.
Triage - volunteer rota.
Most recent data - 3rd May - []
dental practices []
Some dentists can be self-isolating.
1300 patients seen in practices.
Challenge for dentists - lot of PPE required.

Interim Dental Officer engages with BDA.

All services will have to be provided differently - no legislative impediment to opening.

DAERA Routine check-ups etc - will lead to future problems.

Reassure re supplies of PPE to dentists. Not sustainable to have no dental services. Mouth cancer, brain tumours - picked up by dentists/opticians.

CWO NI - disproportionate no of dental issues.

People can access - 5 areas.

Fluoridation of water - tried to progress when DAERA was Health Min. Need to get dental services back to normal asap -

DOJ

Info from CWO not correct.

Letter from CWO + E J - routine care not allowed, referred to urgent care centre.

Married to dentist.

Advice from Health Service / CWO signature on letter.

Emergency care - extraction.

Aerosol procedures - have to be referred to emergency centres.

PPE issue - aerosol procedures.

Practices run as businesses - fee per item.

Treat patient - have to wait for 45 minutes for aerosol to disperse, then clean entire room.

Dentist will struggle unless payment structure is changed.

Aerosols, drilling - leads to downtime in surgery for cleaning.

Check-ups shd be OK

But treatments, fillings etc - v different situation,

Orthodontics - ad be OK

lot of work between dentists + health service to restructure.

No check-ups now, only emergency treatment - advice from CMO.

CMO

Will follow up with Michael [] - different info.

Routine dental procedures - will have to be managed differently. Urgent centres.

Phenomenal no of volunteers - over 70 worked to support care homes etc.

Significant work by dentists in COVID.

DOJ

Dental hygienists - self-employed women; contract with dental practice

AM work is aerosol-generating.
Critical ongoing care
Cd lose group of qualified people -
may not be financially viable in future.

DFE Wider point.
lot of people - allied health professionals
- chiropodists, speech therapists,
- operating by zoom, postal packs.
Get up + running
Dealing with people with lot of difficulties
* - will write to DOH - to consider who
is holding up - R, Professional Bodies
etc.

DOH Speech Therapists - aerosol generating
(problem with larynx) - Dysphagia,
lot of things to move on.

FM Put in matrix + move forward.

DFC Sense of backlog, how to clear
- DOH to provide update?

DOH Waiting lists - increased through
COVID. Already long before pandemic
- major piece of work.
May pick centralized location for
operations
* - paper in next 2 weeks.

- DFM Opportunity to have specialized
& services in some areas.
Sth - compare.
- DOH Poss double health service - COVID +
non COVID.
- FM Care home staff?
- CMO Cd be 40,000
- DOH Incl domestic / kitchen staff etc.
- FM Residents?
- CMO 10 - 13,000
12,750
Figures vary.
- DOH R published on weekly basis
- after Exec on Thurs.
- CSO Self-explanatory paper
R - between [0.?]]
Estimate R using modelling.
Results from all 4 nations
between 0.7 and 1.
- DPE Matter of interest.
Yesterday - industry bodies.
Diff to R - 1 meter / 2 meters

social distancing
Different countries - varied distances.

CSO No distance where virus hits wall + stops.
Scientific advice - further apart the better; closer distance = more risk.
Quantitative evidence - [] at 1m = 15 mins at 2 meters.
Depends on level of risk you are willing to accept.

DFTI Will cause confusion to public.
Begin 8 June - if can do it then, why not now?
Huge difficulty to communicate.
3rd review - still no ref to family members.
Issues in paper - will bring frustration for people/compliance.

People will not understand - why death rate is reducing but R is increasing

FM Takes time to work through impact of measures
8 June - so we can look at again before changing restrictions.

DH Deaths now - from people who got

ill weeks ago.

Well understood by population.

③ Action log

FM OK

④ Sit Rep

HOCs

PSNI - compliance re moveⁱⁿ
- poor over recent days. Heavy
traffic at beauty spots,
undertaking journeys - exercise,
visits.

Social distancing - some
relaxation of approach, gaps of
young people.
licensing laws.

Sit Rep

Slides 6+7. - States in US
Georgia - relaxed restrictions quickly
- big increase in cases.

Ohio - relaxed more slowly, some
increase, but plateaued.

⑤ Review of Regs.

DOH

3rd Review of Regs.

Depts to submit requests in
better time to allow assessⁱⁿ.

Move for some issues - 8th June,
depending on where R is,
Buy in from gen public
Non food outlets
Non food retailers
Outdoor sports courts
Weddings/civil partnership outdoor
Care of animals - pigeon racing.
Permit hotels to take bookings - but
no timeline considered.

Not ready to propose - indoor visits,
risk.

But outdoor groups - 6 people - OK.

8 June - agreed time to get regs in place,

LPP/LAP

Moving forward - don't want to go
further without template in place.
- Hotels - incl B+B's + holiday homes.
+ people going back to caravans at
same time.

LPP/LAP

FM Matrix - hotel bookings - pr Exec to
decide.

DOH When activity can take place - pr

Exec. Hospitality industry - want early Aug.

FM

ROI - given indicative date, NI hotels/caravans at competitive disadvantage - wd like to give date for NI tourism.

DFE

Lot of lobbying.

Indicative dates - ROI + GR.

Hotels need 6-8 weeks to plan, get booking system in place.

Hotel industry - want to take bookings from 1 Aug - limited facilities.

Hoteliers - want to be able to book or will chase out to Dublin / Scotland, Donagall etc.

Hotels - ROI - July; disadvantage for NI/border hotels.

Tourism - deeply affected.

One hotel - losing £700,000 per week.

We will be heavily criticized if we don't give indicative times.

DOJ

Inconsistencies

eg wedding - 10 people, but 6 for other out door meetings.

Deixe - In weddings? Shouldn't rule out.

Retail

Large outdoor retail - makes sense,
Car-test drive, enclosed environ^{ment}.

Surfaces

Caravan, machinery - people will want to test.

IKEA - announced opening on 1 June.

Regs change from 8 June.

Deferring decisions re personal lives
- meeting families - priority for most people.

Negative message re Exec - more concerned with retail than families,
Childcare - ~~can't~~ important.

Eliminate inconsistencies.

R is up, hospital admissions also up - how to square circle.

Hotels, - caravans, holiday homes much safer.

Need to consider - consumer protection - shouldn't take deposits without option to return.

FM

Agree - spoke to hotel. Can't take deposits.

DPE

Spoke to car retailers - have checked with insurance cos - can do test drive alone.

JMK

Organizational resilience re
Test/Tracing. [P 37?]

V good paper, evolving.
Good synthesis of scientific data.
Timing over next 2-3 weeks is
way to go, particularly given
volatility of R no.

Caution - welcome level of
caution.

Can be critical re every T
crossed + 1 dotted.

Welcome caution - but creates
demand on leadership.

Agree parameters, contours of
approach, will help exec cohesion.

Contact Tracing.

Setting up pilot under PHA.

Decided on structure of service -
agency, outside body, who is
in command?

Recruittm of personnel, midterm
view of roll-out.

DOH

Hotels - from health point of view
take bookings; when is for exec.

Weddings = 10 because funerals
= 10.

Drive in - no stipulation in reqs
so weddings can be OK.

IKEA - homewares, allowed

under Regs.

NI Direct - gives people info.

Home visits - level of risk is higher than buying sofa.

Still say no - but regularly review outside 3-week review period.

Slow steady path is best approach - will pass on SHK comments to team who reviews - tks.

Contact Tracing - CMO.

CMO

Guidance

Businesses

Managing queries

Available for []

Contact tracing.

Pilot ended 17-5.

Full service from 18-5. Scale up over [] Planning.

No song + dance for launch.

Care workers

Paras 39 + 40 - critical elements - contact tracing in 24hr period.

More challenging if R Rise.

24-48 hr time interval.

To be successful, need to be contact tracing 80% in 24 hrs.

30-60%.

As current restrictions step back,
need confidence in Test/contact
service.

CSO - modelling of demand
- cd be up to 60,000 people self-
isolating.

Checking DFC support available
Some people may need to self-isolate
no. of times.

Gold command - CMO, Min + Exec.
Chair [].

Also strategic group beneath that -
stakeholders.

Not outsourcing - Public Health
responsibility.

- Public Health Consultancy
- Contact/Trace staff - 99, + additional
20. Will add more as required
- lot of training.
- Call handlers - NI Direct, NIPS.

CSO

Modelling.

Robust - cornerstone of attempts to
keep R down as we relax restrictions,
200 [] per day

Critical to get tests for everyone who
is symptomatic, need people to ~~contact~~
respond positively if asked to self-
isolate.

Stay 2 meters away from
people - important messaging.

80% of contacts, self-isolate for 14 days

Home visits - understand difficulties.
Will be v hard to maintain social distancing - will put pressures on R. Risk is greater - prefer to see impact of relaxing other measures before move to indoor visits.

DOF Weddings - where did request come from?

FM Me

DOF Terminally ill weddings - we focused on religious - oversight, make clear outdoor weddings + f/ill weddings incl civil partnerships.

See logic of allowing hotels to take bookings - need to be sure through engage^{ment} on acceptable date - some want July.

Allied health professionals - creating expectation / more queries - childcare.
Shopping centres - can't access individual shops from streets.

Need advice for businesses a.s.a.p.
Paper v measured - but expectation of reopening will lead to requests for

advice across all sectors,

DE

Need additional info re hotels - bookings in no man's land. Indicative timing, even with caveats. Caravans - state of the art. As Exec - will have to have detailed conversation re childcare - to support economy etc.

Weddings - one-off occasion, 10 is sensible no.

Guidance, specific instructions - inundated with queries re outdoor activities.

Contact tracing - 80% in 48 hrs. Barriers - people difficult to identify - don't answer phone.

Shielding - gradual move^m back to work - people shielding - data protection.

Some interpreting - some taking advantage of situation - need clear-cut guidance - who shd be at work/at home.

DOH

Civil marriage - DOF letter, will look at.

12th fortnight / Derby fortnight
R+RS.

* Expand childcare provisions - piece of work we are taking forward - will follow up with DE.

Shopping centres ...

Childcare - info piece is critical, finished by end next week - advice re reqs already amended.

Tracing - visited last week.
People not answering phones - promote specific no. so people recognize who is calling.

Work on shielding - 4 CMOs looking at. Paper at start of week.

CMO

light approach.

Transmission []

Autumn/Winter

- while risk is lower, psychological impact

Pushing hard to
Process of engagement

40,000 people in NI,
facilitate

Outdoor exercise with appropriate safeguards.

Different levels of risk

Advisory

More info re level of risk - people can make informed choices.

Next few weeks

More comprehensive approach if R increases.

Individuals making own choices re level of shielding

Social interaction

Hope to say something []

DE

Wed - permissibility of actions under regs?

~~DFI~~ DFI

Importance of R.

Inconsistencies - if 10 people can go to wedding or funeral, then shd be 10 generally outdoors.

Hoteliers - need for timeframe - same need for all sectors.

Clear communication.

Need understanding of impact - public transport

Need to say something to families

X Q - CMO - assess^m of contact tracing pilot; also update on Civil Service staff Test/tracing.

DAERA

Social distance - can't drop one

guard.

Funeral - 10. Insensible no.

Yesterday - Forest PK - 100/150
people in wide area.

Funeral - cd have social distancing
for bigger no.

Arbitrary fig = 10

JML

Reg 5 - outdoor sports courts -
incl pitches?

Gyms - outdoor facilities?

Definition of small grps - 10/15?

Weddings - drive-in weddings
allowed? Registrar Gen - 6 people.

Give info to Reg Gen - 10?

DPE

Some helpful comments.

DOF - indicative date.

* Exec to Reconn - accept DOH
advice re booking; Exec to agree
- booking from start Aug - all
health care, hotels own risk

FM

Hotels need lead-in time to prepare.

DOH

Nos - 6/10 - Very specific.

10 = guidance, not in regs.

Increase from 6 to 10 - will
encourage grps of young people
- already a problem.

Weddings/funerals - 10 is a scale.

We were asked re hotels, not asked re restaurants.

Car showrooms - can be done.

DAERA point - R no is critical, will check language re outdoor courts / pitches.

Small gyp = b, don't plan to change Reg Gen - will make sure he knows, also councils.

Gyms with outdoor areas - gyps of b, no shared surface.

CMD Have not opened playparks etc in parks.

JML Gym with own outdoor areas

CMD X Will look in slower time + advise. Technically possible - but safeguards against risks.

Everything on knife-edge.

Messaging - social distancing, hygiene. Public compliance will govern decisions re future easing.

PM Strong message - Press Briefing.

DFI Need time to plan - but only for hotel industry.

Response to hotel query only - not a cohesive approach for Sec.

DOF

If give hotels a timeline, will get
qs re caravans, B+Bs etc.

Tourist accom in general.

If we announce today - looking at
tourism sector generally - cautious
re announce^m.

FM

Recognize issue - but urgency
re hotels in competition with ~~the~~ similar
sector in ROI + qs.

DFE

Happy to bring general tourism
paper - but wd like to have date
today re hotels.

But can bring paper for when on
all tourism - but incl caravans, pubs,
restaurants etc - all with different
require^m.

Wanted to keep narrow focus today
on hotels.

DOF

Some other tourism operators will feel
it is unfair to focus on hotels.

FM

x DFE - bring paper for when.

Press - will advise we are looking
at

* Agree DOH recomm?

Yes

Border Health

Fm

Sp Note.

DOH

Discussed before, led by TEO,
ACROSS UK + ROI. Spoke to SHARRID
on Tues

ROI - 14-day self-declaration from
today. Breach of reqs = €2000 fine
or 6 months in prison.

Supportive - same as ROI + QS.

Supportive of higher fine.

DOJ

Policing - only brief conversation with
PSNI - no particular issue re breaches
- but wd not be comfortable to attend
premises without knowing offence has
happened.

14-day self isolation / fines.

Not sure of legality.

Cd be challenges to this - justify
reasons - breach self-isolation -
penalties lower for residents than
visitors - inconsistency.

Monitoring - look at how we
administer fines. fixed penalty system
not suitable.

Call - need to think about evidence
of offence;

inconsistency;

administration of fines.

DFI

Thought we wd have seen draft before final - mandatory fines etc in ROI?
Concern.

FM

Some issues to be worked through
- monitoring, 3rd party contract.

K Pearson

Can get resolution
Time - need to get into DOH
regs.
ROI - moving to mandatory.

CWO

Call tomorrow - moving towards this.

DOJ

Fines incl in regs? If self-isolation for other reason, matching fines?
Open to challenge if not clear.
If including fines in regs, need to take time.

KP

England/Wales - social distancing
£ 7, £1000 self-isolating.
Scotland - considering.

FM

£ + W - aware of DOJ issues?

DOJ

Understanding [] wanted
all fines at higher level.
No sense to have different

approaches - will lead to legal action.

No problem with principle - need to consider.

FM Agree principle - but get clarity re legal position

DFI Get assurance re uniformity - self-isolation; practicalities of tracking/tracing.
~~to~~

FM CMO to check with Tony Hobbs

dFM Sth - no restrictions re people coming in.

CMO Discussed with ROI,
UK a/ps into ROI, travelling to NI - can have quarantine in NI.

FM ~~to~~ Agree in principle - work on detail of lines

KP - OK.

Yes

Economy - first steps.

DFS

Impact on economy v severe.
Unemploy^m for April - undone all good work of last 2 years.
Temp workers - impact on young people + women.
Fire bombing - companies to restart - could be redundancies when they restart.
Shops - customer concerns re safety.
Strategic ease^m prog.
Parallel to doc - DOF.
Further docs + guidance re economic recovery.
Reskill young people.
Pfg commit^m - strong economy.
Wd like str. doc in public domain re economy.
Will be criticized - shd have str. approach in public domain.

Childcare (DOF) - have asked officials to consider.

DOF

TKS for paper. Challenges for economy. Help people through crisis, help recovery.
Measured, support to reopen - quicker we can reopen, alongside health advice, better.

Sectoral advice.

Hotels - focus on who has spoken to us.
Retail - guidance for one sector, will lead to requests from other sectors,
Need strong sectoral advice for all sectors.

Work to be taken forward by Ec Forum
Involves all of us.

How to move forward? Target parts of economy which cd thrive.

Need wider piece - Ec Recovery

X Str - HOCS organizing discussion - we shd all contribute.

Clear - Recovery Str needs more work - collective Exec input,

Fm

HOCS organizing Away Day 11 June.

DPE

sector-specific advice - BEIS has issued.

Engage^m forum - working on this,
X will get paper on Wsn Economy - v multi-faceted.

Ad Hoc

dpm

Sp Note.

DOF

Arrange^m - Wsn + Tues - Budgetary issues.

Letter from Assembly - summer

dfw contingent on things progressing -
COVID

DOH If we don't have formal recess -
lot of A&Ws.

DOJ Not in favour of formal recess - wd
send negative message. Economic
impact - furlough/out of furlough
- if Exec/Assembly seen to be on
hol - wd be bad message.
Meet every 2 weeks - meet
regularly.
Wider implications
Assembly - COVID / urgent,
want to accelerate normal business
- also not in govt for 3 years.
Managed continuation of Exec/Ass
business.
A&Ws
Happy to continue.
Phase
leave for staff.

DFI Shd continue. COVID crisis, economic
crisis, Brexit.
Staff - health, wellbeing - HOCs
to put measures in place.

Fm

Halfway house.

Ad Hoc Comm

People need a break - a way to do, continue to address issues.

Manage - continue to recognize crisis, but have break.

Sept/Oct/Nov - worse coming, need to be ready.

DAERIA

If we break early July - inappropriate; keep Assembly in place longer than normal

Opt out for no of weeks - recharge batteries.

But stay for longer than normal - be aware of perception.

dfm

Find way forward to find equilibrium.

DOJ

Ad Hoc only deals with COVID

- lot of other issues need to be addressed. Need full sitting of Assembly to look at other matters.

Stagger time off so we can keep Ass. going.

DFI

Brexit.

dfm

Will find way forward - balance message to public,

staff wellbeing.

[Alliance] asking for more Qs -

DOI

I wd like more Qs.

⑦

Issues needing Exec Agree^{mt}.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

AOR .

Haulage industry

DAERA

80% of hauliers OK - 20% not OK.
V reliant on haulage in industry
for all our supplies.
Bringing empty lorries back - need
to look at urgently.

DFI

Got copy of paper - DFI working
with DAERA + DOF.
Difficulties - my dept will work
with DFI + DFE.

DOF Happy to receive requests, I can't initiate them - if DAERA, DFE+DFI want to bring paper, I will consider.

Councils Funding

JML Finance to Councils - costs, how managed etc?, lost income.

DFC Will get info + have paper tomorrow

JML Based on lost income?

DFC To cover costs for period to end June - expected revenue during that period; compared to previous years. Paper on Mon.

Reprivitization Issue

DOF Confidentiality of info - can we share with committee? What limitations apply - shd be confidential, but committee want info.

DOF Advised Assembly exercise underway - 2 stages; committee shd be sighted; but info for full, frank discussion in Exec - identify what issues are, but

Exec discussion shd be confidential
will issue guidance

Airports

DOF

City of Derry A/P - Started -
increase traffic. Other A/Ps -
some good news - flights
increasing
P/Sec - liaise with DFE, DFI
etc re further action if
required.

DFI

Committee -
£59m open to transfer to other
depts.

DOF

All COVID money - for exec to
decide on spend.
If further allocation to A/Ps
required, will be lesser fig.
Brenett - £30m Translink,
Ferries, A/Ps, haulage.
If transport doesn't use, can be
used elsewhere.

APM

Next meeting

- Mon @ 10.00

Assembly sitting again on
Mon + Tues - oral AQs etc,