

**The Welsh Government
Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet
27th April 2020**

Present: Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford AM (Chair)
Vaughan Gething AM

Via video link: Rebecca Evans AM
Lesley Griffiths AM
Julie James AM
Eluned Morgan AM
Ken Skates AM
Kirsty Williams AM
Jeremy Miles AM
Jane Hutt AM
Hannah Blythyn AM
Julie Morgan AM
Lee Waters AM
Dafydd Elis Thomas AM

Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary (via video link)
Des Clifford, Director General Office of the First Minister
Andrew Goodall, Director General Health
Carys Evans, Principal Private Secretary First Minister
Will Whiteley, Head of Cabinet Division
Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
Jane Runeckles, Special Adviser (via video link)
Dan Butler, Special Adviser (via video link)
Ian Butler, Special Adviser (via video link)
Paul Griffiths, Special Adviser (via video link)
Clare Jenkins, Special Adviser
NR Special Adviser (via video link)
Gareth Williams, Special Adviser (via video link)
Tom Woodward, Special Adviser (via video link)
Christopher W Morgan, Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)
NR Cabinet Secretariat
NR Specialist Policy Adviser (via video link)
Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer (via video link)
Tim Render, Director COVID-19 team (via video link)
Liz Lalley, COVID-19 team (via video link)
Peter McDonald, COVID-19 team (via video link)
Gareth Bevington, COVID-19 team (via video link)
Jo Trott, Head of COVID-19 project team

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

- 1.1 Cymeradwydd y Cabinet gofnodion y 20 Ebrill / Cabinet approved the minutes of 20 April.

Item 2: Senedd Business

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Item 3: Oral Update on public health protection and lifting the restrictions – Chief Medical Officer

- 3.1 *The Chief Medical Officer informed Cabinet that he had asked Public Health Wales (PHW) to prepare a framework for the lifting of restrictions when the timing was appropriate.*
- 3.2 *PHW had been asked to consider three issues: how to have effective surveillance during the easement process; a procedure for identifying and tracing cases once the restrictions had been lifted; and the experience of other countries in reducing restrictions. It was noted that PHW would be engaging with Welsh Government overseas offices, to help gather information.*

- 3.3 *Cabinet recognised that this would be the most important issue for the Government for that week and noted that the draft plan was expected to be presented to the First Minister on Wednesday of that week. A strategic oversight board was being established across Government to operationalise the final plans, once agreed.*
- 3.4 *There was a discussion about the use of facemasks and Ministers noted that although the CMO had not prepared any advice for the Government, his initial view was that use by the general public was of marginal value. The downside would be people with mild symptoms avoiding the need to self-isolate by using masks, the diversion of supplies from the Health and Social Care sectors and the spill over into the use in other settings, such as schools.*
- 3.5 *SAGE was considering the science behind the use of face masks and advice would be submitted to Governments in due course, but in the meantime officials would prepare a short note setting out the advantages and disadvantages of such protective equipment.*

Officials to provide a one page factual note on the advantages and disadvantages of face mask use by the public.

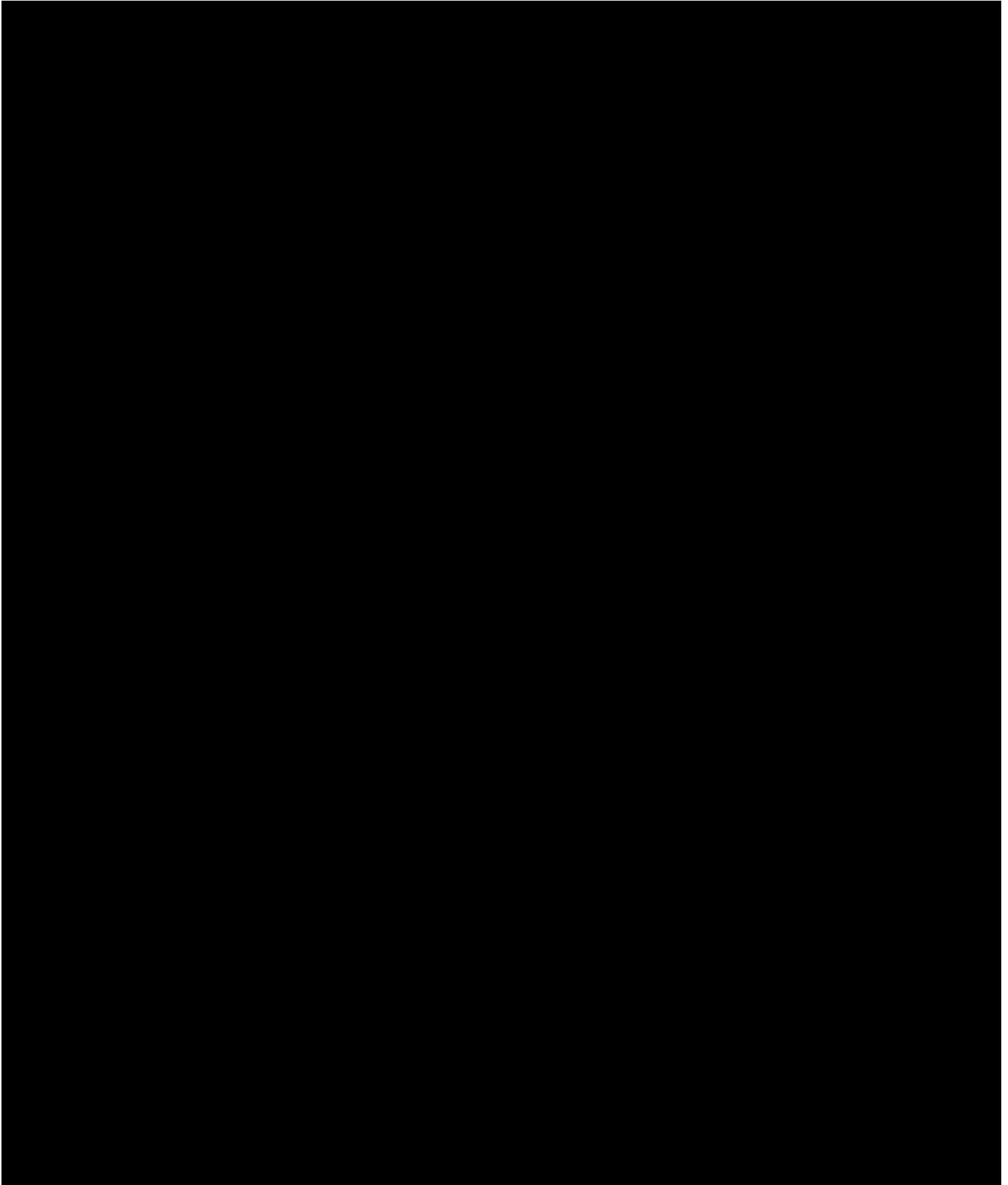
Item 4: COVID-19 Policy Co-ordination Dashboard CAB(19-20)51

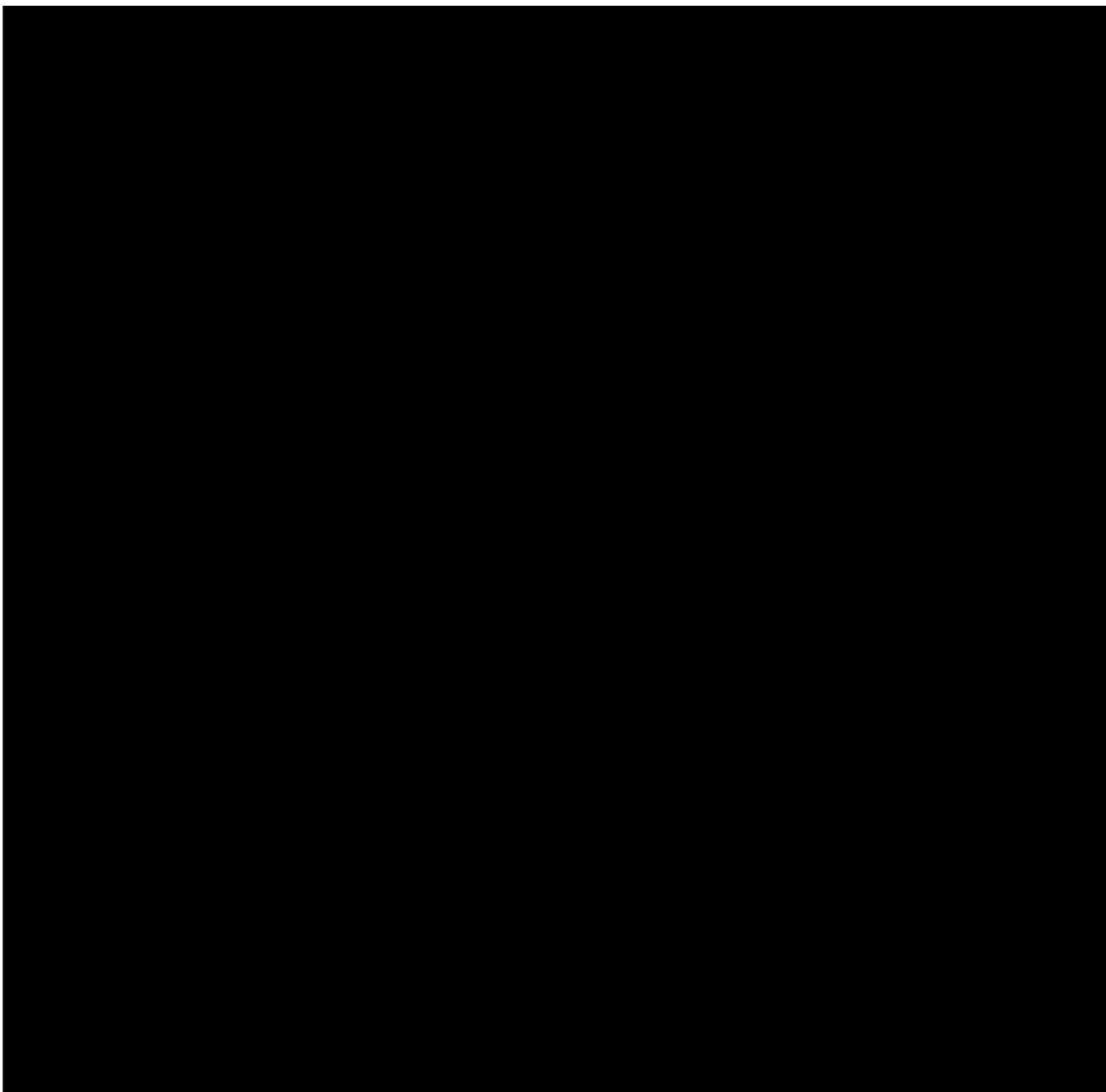
- 4.1 *The Counsel General and Minister for European Transition introduced the paper, which invited Cabinet to consider the updated policy co-ordination dashboard and the latest Welsh Government Data Monitor.*
- 4.2 *It was reported that the recording of hate crime and calls to the Live Fear Free helpline would be included in the next Data Monitor Report as officials were currently sourcing and validating the data. In addition, some of the technical information, which was currently set out over three weeks would be extended to cover a longer timeframe.*
- 4.3 *There would be further Ministerial meetings later that week on the RAG ratings, particularly to consider the impact of the actions and to ensure that the Government's response would be effective.*
- 4.4 *Cabinet acknowledged that the Data Monitor Report was a very useful source of information and recognised the importance of Ministers using the dashboard to help respond to issues and inform decisions.*
- 4.5 *It was agreed that, in future, officials should highlight in the covering paper any changes to the RAG ratings within the dashboard.*

Officials to highlight any RAG rating changes in the covering paper.

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE - CABINET

*Cabinet will wish to note that these minutes, except those items in italics, will be published
in week commencing 1st June 2020*





**Action points and outcomes from a meeting of Cabinet on
27th April 2020**

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE – Cabinet, Policy and Commercial in Confidence

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE - CABINET

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in week commencing 1st June 2020*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action / Outcome</i>	<i>Outcome/ Deadline</i>	<i>Officials</i>
<i>Item 3: Oral Update on public health protection and lifting the restrictions – Chief Medical Officer</i>	<i>Officials to provide a one page factual note on the advantages and disadvantages of face mask use by the public</i>	<i>Asap</i>	<i>Rob Orford</i>
<i>Item 4: COVID-19 Policy Co- ordination Dashboard CAB(19-20)48</i>	<i>Officials to highlight any RAG rating changes in the covering paper</i>	<i>For the next meeting</i>	<i>Liz Lalley</i>