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First Minister of Scotland



Scottish Government
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I am writing following Mark Drakeford's letters yesterday about the risks of spread of Covid-19 as a result of travel between areas of low and high prevalence.

This is a live issue for Scotland too – for example with a significant outbreak linked to travel to Blackpool – and I am keen to establish if it is possible to agree a four-nations approach to the issue. Under the additional temporary measures across the central belt of Scotland we have issued guidance cautioning against unnecessary travel into and out of each of the health board areas covered and against non-essential travel to and from areas elsewhere in the UK that are subject to "local lockdown" measures. I note from Mark's announcement this afternoon that he intends to put in place further legislative steps to restrict travel.

As a first step, I suggest that officials meet urgently to identify a way forward to address this matter that ensures coherence in our approaches.

More generally, I support Mark's proposal for an early meeting of COBR(M) to discuss additional steps to suppress the virus.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister of Wales, the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for Scotland and to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

PD

NICOLA STURGEON