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**Subject:** Official sensitive: note of Ministerial call 11 June

## Official sensitive: note of Ministerial call 11 June

### FM Update: 21 day review

The First Minister provided an update on the discussions underway in relation to changes that may be possible at the next three week review, in preparation for Cabinet's decisions next week.

Coronavirus cases have continued to reduce, there are now 40-50 new cases a day and around 3,000 people have coronavirus in Wales currently. This is down from 400 new cases a day at the point lockdown was introduced. This means there is some headroom for changes now, and some can be signalled for the next review.

There are three significant potential changes for consideration: re-opening of schools, non-essential retail, and relaxing restrictions on more outdoor activities. The current proposal is that the stay local message would remain for another three weeks, but we could signal that it would be removed following the next review, if it was safe to do so. This would tie in to some reopening of the tourism industry, including relaxing restrictions on some self-contained accommodation. This would give

tourism operators the opportunity to plan and put measures in place, as well as have discussions with the local community. There are also a small number of minor things that are under consideration for next week, including opening places of worship for private prayer, allowing visits to young offender institutes, and allowing elite athletes to train under the advice of their governing bodies. Opening of outdoor museums is also under consideration.

FM and MHSS noted that evidence on bubbling will need to be examined following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday. MHSS referenced the academic work conducted in relation to New Zealand's use of bubbling, and confirmed that TAC would be asked to review this.

METNW updated on non-essential retail and work that had been conducted on potential phasing. The message from the sector is that not all retail would open immediately, some businesses would opt to remain shut and continue to make use of the furlough scheme as opening with current measures would not give them the volume of business needed to be sustainable. METNW confirmed that close contact care such as hairdressers, and hospitality would not be included as non-essential retail.

MHLG updated on work being done in relation to the housing market, and potential opening of show homes and empty properties for viewing under controlled circumstances. Allowing surveyors to survey empty properties, and the potential to allow house moves where all legal work is done and just the final conveyancing remains were being worked on for consideration.

Other discussion areas included:

- Consensus that we should signal at this review that the stay local guidance will end at the next review, provided the indicators continue to improve.
- Messaging is important, particularly in relation to the end of stay local and the 'bubbling' announced by the Prime Minister yesterday. There is growing evidence of the distress caused by not seeing family, and the message will need to be clear to ensure compliance.
- Importance of working with relevant sectors due to have restrictions lifted to ensure they are prepared - smaller retail businesses, tourism sector etc.
- The interface between lifting of some restrictions and the tapering of the furlough scheme.
- Importance of public realm works and accessibility
- Importance of TTP

In relation to the 2 metre rule and reports of a potential change to this in England, the FM confirmed that SAGE were asked about this last week and confirmed the recommendation of 2 metres - if the distance is halved then the risk doubles. If the science changes the policy would be reviewed.

The First Minister requested that further comments from colleagues be sent to his office. The FM confirmed that the MHSS would provide an update on TTP at tomorrow's morning call.

#### **Actions:**

- Any further views to be sent to FM's office: All
- MHSS to provide update on TTP at tomorrow's call: MHSS

NR

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