

OFFICIAL - EXECUTIVE

E (M) (20) 12

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 30 MARCH 2020

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (via video link)
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy (via video link)
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health (via video link)
Minister for Infrastructure (via video link)
Minister of Justice (via video link)

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)
Secretary to the Executive
Head of Executive & Central Advisory Division TEO

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer (via video link)
Mr Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health (via video link)
Ms Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations, The Executive Office (via video link)

INTRODUCTION

The deputy First Minister chaired items 1 – 3.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 11 Minutes of Executive meeting of 26 March 2020

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 26 March 2020 were agreed.

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AGENDA ITEM 2

Matters Arising

Health Protection Regulations

2. The Executive noted that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 had been made on 28 March; and that, subject to the Assembly's vote on the motion, the Assembly Ad Hoc Committee would come into operation on 1 April. Ministers were asked to advise TEO of any statements they proposed to make to the Committee on Covid-19 related matters.

AGENDA ITEM 3

COVID-19

3. The Secretary to the Executive briefed the Executive on the draft COVID-19 Executive Strategy and Plan.
4. The Minister of Health and the Chief Medical Officer briefed the Executive on the Department of Health's Emergency Response Strategy to COVID -19.
5. Following discussion, the Executive noted the draft Executive Strategy and Plan and agreed that further work should be undertaken to populate it with additional information from departments, and that the key elements of the Department of Health's Emergency Response Strategy should be integrated within it.

The First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda.

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AGENDA ITEM 4

Note of Urgent Decisions

6. The Executive noted the following urgent decision taken in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the Ministerial Code:

**E (UP) (20) 13 The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 5

Any other business

Contingency Functioning of the Executive

7. The First Minister raised the issue of the continued functioning of the Executive in the event that Ministers should fall ill with the Coronavirus. She outlined the legislative position relating to the roles of First Minister and deputy First Minister; and advised of the need for all parties represented on the Executive to have contingency plans for replacement of Ministers should the need arise.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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AGENDA ITEM 6

Media Handling / Notification of Decisions to the Assembly / Date of Next Meeting

11. The date of the next Executive meeting would be notified in due course.