

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 14 MAY 2020**

**MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO LINK**

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

**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  
Prof Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser

**INTRODUCTION**

The deputy First Minister chaired items 1 – 5.

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**E (M) (20) 27      Minutes of Executive meeting of 11 May 2020**

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 11 May 2020 were agreed.

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### **Matters Arising**

2. The Executive noted that, as agreed at the Executive meeting of 11 May, the Minister of Health had circulated a paper on COVID 'Reproduction' (R).

### **AGENDA ITEM 2**

#### **COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister**

3. The Minister of Health provided updates on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including the stepping down of the Nightingale facility; engagement with the Commissioner for Older People; NISRA methodology for reporting deaths ; the R number; and care home issues, including testing and staff sick pay.
4. The Minister of Health raised the issue of inappropriate sharing of Executive information. The Secretary to the Executive advised that the matter had been investigated, and a reminder had been given about adherence to the protocols applying to the NI Hub

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **Actions from previous meetings**

##### **Action Log**

5. The deputy First Minister advised that the Action Log from the previous Executive meeting had been circulated to Ministers.
6. The Executive noted that a paper on Traffic Flows had been circulated.

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### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

#### **CCG Sitrep**

7. The Secretary to the Executive provided a read-out of the CCG meeting and the Situation Report which had been circulated to Ministers. He advised that CCG would now move to weekly meetings with a daily situation report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

#### **COVID-19 Management**

<b>E (20) 97 (C)</b>	<b>Proposed Amendments to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020</b>
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8. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
9. Following discussion, the Executive meeting was adjourned at 1.30pm.
10. The meeting resumed at 3.30pm
11. The Executive agreed that:
  - (i) the legislative changes proposed in the paper were in keeping with the Executive Approach to Decision-Making and with the framework set out in the previous Executive Memorandum E (20) 90 (C), which had been agreed by the Executive at its meeting of 7 May 2020;
  - (ii) the proposed amendments to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 should be made;

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- (iii) these amendments should be made as soon as is practicable, aiming for Friday 15 May for the majority of the amendments;
- (iv) the amendments to allow people to take part in any outdoor activity that did not involve contact with shared surfaces that could be disinfected should be approved and made at the earliest possible time in the following week following satisfactory resolution of the legal and practical issues, and
- (v) the amendments must be supported by the clearest possible public messaging.

12. It was also agreed that:

- (i) The Executive would set out on Monday 18 May its pathway for moving to Stage 1;
- (ii) The decision making matrix would be published;
- (iii) Garden Centres and Recycling/Amenity Centres would be allowed to open from 18 May; and that
- (iv) Guidance would be developed to enable marriages to take place on compassionate grounds.

13. The Executive also agreed that its core public health messaging would be emphasised by the First Minister and deputy First Minister in media and publicity activity following the Executive meeting.

**E (20) 98 (C)**

**UK Government Plans to bring in Requirements to make Declarations and to Self-Isolate on Arrival in the UK**

14. The deputy First minister introduced this paper.

15. Following discussion, the Executive:

- (i) noted that the UK Government planned to bring in requirements to make declarations and to self-isolate on arrival in the UK;

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- (ii) agreed in principle that work should be progressed by officials in relevant departments; and
- (iii) noted that regulations may be required.

**The First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda**

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Other matters requiring Executive Agreement**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

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**Note of Urgent Decision**

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

**E (UP)(20) 21      Executive Approach to Coronavirus Decision Making**

**AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Any other business**

**COVID-19 Spend**

22. The Minister of Finance advised that he would be bringing forward a paper on COVID-19 spend, taking into account bids and requests received from Ministers.

**COVID-19 Reprioritization**

23. The Minister of Finance advised the Executive of a budgetary reprioritization exercise being carried out by his Department in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, in relation to which he had circulated a Ministerial Colleagues letter, and which would require responses from all Departments.

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**Graduate Entry Medical School**

**Irrelevant & Sensitive**

**Substitute Teachers**

25. The Minister of Education requested early Executive consideration of his paper on an Income Support Scheme for Substitute Teachers.

**Date of next meeting**

26. The next meeting of the Executive would take place on Monday 18 May at 12.00.

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