

Andy Cole
Director of Civil Contingencies



Room E4.19
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3SR

Tel: **I&S**
I&S @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

FROM: ANDY COLE **Copy Distribution List Below**

DATE: 9 MARCH 2021

TO: PS/MINISTERS

SUBJECT: CHANGE TO C3 POSTURE – STEP-DOWN OF NIHUB & DISCONTINUATION OF NI SITREP

Issue: To note the change to the C3 posture with the step down of the NIHUB and discontinuation of the NI SitRep.

Timing: Routine.

FOI Implications: An exemption provided under Section 35(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 may be applicable.

Financial Implications: None.

Legislative Implications: None.

Press Office Implications: This is an internal update and no media interest is anticipated.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Ministers note:

- NIHUB will stand down from ALERT footing. CCPB and C3 structures stand ready to escalate, should civil contingencies disruption require; and
- the weekly NI SitRep is discontinued, with the last NI SitRep being produced on 9 March.

Background

1. I wrote to you on 12 February 2021 outlining the revised arrangements at that time for CCG (O) and the C3 posture, SUB 0109-2021 refers. The C3 response was

scaled back across the system and CCG (O) changed from meeting weekly to be on standby only, with NICCMA being stood down and the NIHUB moved to ALERT status.

2. The decision to scale back the response at that time was based on the reducing risk profile, following the end of the transition period, the trajectory of COVID transmission and no issues being escalated from Departments to CCG (O) for decision. A shorter, more focused NI SitRep document providing analysis across key metrics continued to be produced and issued weekly.

Current Position

3. With CCG (O) no longer meeting and undertaking its decision making role, the C3 system is no longer on a response footing. Key metrics continue to be tracked along with the wider developments around the NI Protocol and any disruption which may present. Given the business as usual footing and normal monitoring undertaken through CCPB, the C3 response and NIHUB is now stood down and there is no further requirement for the weekly NI SitRep.
4. The vast majority of the information contained in recent NI SitRep documents is already publically available or provided by Departments directly to Ministers. The data team under Karen Pearson are currently considering the data requirements to track the current pathway out of restrictions programme of work, which is intended to replace the previous NI SitRep document.

Future Escalation

5. Ministers should be assured that despite a step down from response, the C3 system and NIHUB can be scaled quickly if future disruption determines the need to invoke NICCMA and stand up CCG (O).

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that Ministers note:
 - NIHUB will stand down from ALERT footing. CCPB and C3 structures stand ready to escalate, should civil contingencies disruption require; and
 - the weekly NI SitRep is discontinued, with the last NI Sitrep being produced on 9 March.

Personal Data

ANDY COLE

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