

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
Diane Dodds MLA



From: Diane Dodds MLA
Minister for the Economy

Date: 18 February 2021

To: Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

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**SEVENTH REVIEW OF HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS,
RESTRICTIONS) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS**

Thank you for your draft Executive paper of 17 February 2020 regarding the above.

I welcome the proposals to permit the introduction of contactless click and collect within the baby equipment, clothing and footwear and electrical goods sectors of the non-essential retail business. I am grateful for the comments and helpful suggestions received from Ministerial colleagues on this issue.

Given the paper recommends the further extension of restrictions this would inevitably have an impact on businesses that have already suffered significantly during the previous lockdowns and are now in perilous circumstances.

In addition, the prolongation of the restrictions further emphasises the necessity to provide our citizen's with access to the garden centres for contactless click and collect. The mental and physical health benefits are well recorded and at this time would provide a welcome and much need uplift for so many across Northern Ireland given how the garden has become a sanctuary for so many in the past eleven months.

Finally, I would ask that the Executive note my previous comments on considering a limit on the numbers allowed within take away food outlets and that this be actioned as part of our efforts to contain transmission of the virus.

I am copying this to the Attorney General, Departmental Solicitor's Office, First Legislative Counsel and to Executive Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

Personal Data

**DIANE DODDS MLA
Minister for the Economy**