

From: Madeleine Alessandri <madeleine.alessandri@nio.gov.uk>
To: Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, Mark Byers <mark.byers@nio.gov.uk>, Holly Clark <holly.clark@nio.gov.uk>
Subject: Cab Sec daily 5/5/20
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Cab Sec called away to No. 10 so Mark Sweeney chaired. Key points for us as follows:

Dashboard: Downward trend on deaths continues. Latest ONS stats on all deaths against 5 year average also starting to level off.

CCS paper on the knock on effects of covid (v clear and well worth a read, but not when you're feeling depressed). V brief discussion of this and offer from CCS for other departments to join in the working groups that will be developing thinking further. I asked for NIO to be included in this (not least as the knock on effects for NI could be extremely severe re security and political stability).

On MiGs: the only new thing (to me at least) was that the International MiG is not now likely to meet again. Debate continues as to whether an officials group needs to continue to consider G20, intl organisations etc. Otherwise the idea is that the international strand will be folded into NSC structures.

Mark Sweeney said that the PM is focussed v heavily on the 'building blocks' of the social distancing review: return of schools, safer spaces in the workplace etc. For this reason, much of the PM forward look was blank. Mark was unable to say (because it hasn't been decided) when COBR will meet. The review had to be done (legally) on 7 May. SAGE advice is currently being wrapped up following a meeting earlier today....the overall approach and choreography of decisions was 'not yet settled'.

Wales asked for sight of the SAGE advice on options for adjusting the lockdown....this was registered but no affirmation given.

FCO pushed to understand whether the plan was to do the border and social distancing review announcements separately or together? Answer: not yet decided. But action taken away to ensure that enough time is built into the borders announcement plan to enable FCO to brief posts (and thus international partners) in a timely way.

Deep dive on care homes: this is an increasing focus of PM attention both because of the impact on the most vulnerable and because care homes - and travel of staff between care homes - seems to be a significant factor in spread and thus our R number. MHCLG were unfortunately not in the meeting, but CO outlined a plan for care homes to:

- increase the support they get on infection control
- provide new GP and community services support to homes
- make up to 30,000 tests per day available for care home residents and staff
- increase local government oversight to ensure every care home can access the support it needs

In private chat, CCS flagged to me (no-one else -please protect) that they are going to share with us the SAGE regional R0 estimates. The NI one is looking oddly high - not clear whether it's a data error or something else going on here. Comment: we should dig into this more. Do NIE have their own estimate of R0?

Stop press: SOSNI has just texted to let me know that AF on call with CDL is saying that NI has a higher R rate than elsewhere.....

Finally on comms: I learned that today is World Hand Hygiene Day. So Happy World Hand Hygiene Day everyone.

Madeleine



Madeleine Alessandri

Permanent Under-Secretary

1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ &
Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SH

Tel: **I&S**

Email: pusmail@nio.gov.uk

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