

**From the Minister of Finance**

*Diane Dodds, MLA  
Minister for the Economy*

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Dear Diane

**CORONAVIRUS RECOVERY: ROADMAP FOR TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**

Your draft Executive Paper of 31 May asked colleagues to

- (i) agree to the timeframe in respect of the opening of tourist accommodation as set out in para 51 of your paper;
- (ii) note that these dates would be conditional on the continued containment of the spread of COVID-19;
- (iii) note the work to date, and ongoing, in respect of the roll-out of tailored social distancing and hygiene guidance in respect of the tourism industry, and the tourist accommodation sector; and
- (iv) note the lead role which DfE and Tourism NI will play in taking forward a communications strategy to ensure that tourist accommodation businesses are aware of their responsibilities in respect of applying social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

I am content to agree your recommendations. The setting of specific reopening dates has not so far been part of the Executive's approach to recovery but I am prepared to recognise the dependency of this sector on being able to take advance bookings and on people being able to plan for business events, holidays and short breaks. I also appreciate that the sector needs to plan and get ready to reopen which will involve physical measures as well as retraining staff. The Tourism sector has however been one of the hardest hit by the Covid crisis and considering its needs in the recovery phase will be a key part of our overall recovery.

Any communications on this will have to stress the fact that the dates are conditional on the continued containment of Covid and on the agreement and application of social distancing and hygiene measures to ensure that this can be done safely. I would be keen to have more information in due course on Tourism NI's and Tourism Ireland's approach to planned marketing to encouraging people to holiday at home. I would also suggest that we as Ministers should publicly support this measure by doing just that.

I note that you have not identified any financial issues associated with these measures.

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**Personal Data**

**CONOR MURPHY MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**