

## From the Minister of Finance

*Robin Swann MLA  
Minister of Health*

Private Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
BELFAST  
BT3 9ED

Tel: Irrelevant & Sensitive  
Email: [private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk)

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Dear Robin

### **DOH Final Executive paper - POST CHRISTMAS RESTRICTIONS**

Thank you for your Executive paper of 17 December providing an update to the Executive on modelling of the course of the epidemic post-Christmas as a consequence of the relaxations and seeking agreement on the reintroduction of significant restrictions.

I note the progress in terms of the R rate, which is currently above 1, and that it is anticipated that the case numbers will continue to rise over the holiday period - urgent action is clearly needed. I also note the proposed options available to counteract this rise in transmission and the timings for implementation.

I note the advice of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Advisor, who agree that the arguments for implementing restrictions on either the 19 or 26 December are finely balanced and the key differentiating considerations are wider issues for the Executive to conclude on.

I further note that the proposals at Annex B of the paper are similar to those introduced during the recent two-week circuit breaker, with modifications aimed at further enhancing those areas where compliance may have been lowest.

However, it is disappointing that there was no advanced consultation with DoF on the detail of the new restrictions as these have a consequential impact on the operation of the financial support packages.

I agree that interventions need to be put in place, though we must discuss the timing and the wider implications for support / funding requirements, in particular, for the Localised Restrictions Support Scheme (LRSS) in light of the recommendations.

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**Personal Data**

**CONOR MURPHY MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**