

**FROM: ROBIN SWANN MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

DATE: 28 MARCH 2020

**TO: FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**REQUEST FOR DECISION BY URGENT PROCEDURE – THE HEALTH
PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS, RESTRICTIONS) (NORTHERN IRELAND)
REGULATIONS 2020**

I wish to seek your agreement in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the Ministerial Code that I take an urgent decision to make the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020. Due to the nature of this public health emergency I am obliged to invoke the use of the urgent written procedure in this circumstance.

If the Regulations are not made urgently, there will be a delay before we are in a position to enforce the social distancing and other measures that are required to tackle the pandemic; businesses will be left in a state of uncertainty at the start of the working week; and Northern Ireland will lag behind other jurisdictions that have already made similar Regulations.

The Ministerial code requires that this decision must take account of the views of relevant Executive colleagues. To expedite matters, I am asking colleagues to give this urgent consideration, and to submit their comments direct to you, as well as to me, by 6.30 pm today, 28 March. A draft of the regulations is attached, along with an Executive paper.

I am also copying this to the Attorney General and Departmental Solicitor, and to First Legislative Counsel.

ROBIN SWANN MLA
MINISTER FOR HEALTH