

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
Diane Dodds MLA



From: Diane Dodds MLA
Minister for the Economy

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Date: 27 November 2020

To: Arlene Foster MLA and Michelle O'Neill MLA
First Minister and deputy First Minister

FURTHER DECISION ON TWO WEEK CIRCUIT BREAKER RESTRICTIONS

Thank you for your Executive paper dated 24 November 2020 regarding the above.

I would encourage the continued access to click & collect facilities for non – essential retail as there may well be a legitimate expectation that click and collect continues to be permitted as this was clearly the position in March.

Executive colleagues will want to take full advice from the Minister of Finance on whether these measures would negatively impact on businesses ability to furlough its staff and their access to the Localised Restrictions Support Scheme.

I would ask Executive colleagues to note my concerns that the closure of non-essential retail at this point ahead of Christmas has had the effect of forcing shoppers to condense their shopping requirements into a shorter period. Rather than spreading footfall over a longer period, and potentially quieter periods such as Monday – Wednesday we have concentrated footfall. I have a real concern that this action may have a counterproductive impact on the R rate as we head into Christmas 2020.

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