

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**  
Diane Dodds MLA



**From: Diane Dodds MLA**  
**Minister for the Economy**

Netherleigh  
Massey Avenue  
Belfast BT4 2JP  
Tel: 01234 933333  
email: [private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk)

**Date: 5 October 2020**

**To: Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister of Health**

**NON-PHARMACEUTICAL OPTIONS TO REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19**

Thank you for your draft Executive paper of 23 September regarding the above.

I have noted the contents of the paper and recognise there has been no opportunity to consider the economic benefits / harms, which need to be reviewed carefully and require additional input from other Departments. Additionally the recognition of the need to consider how long additional measures may be in place is a key issue requiring examination.

The economic impact of COVID-19 is unprecedented and although the initial response has been successful at reducing the health impact, this has come at a considerable economic cost. The economic implications of further control measures could be considerable, and this must form part of the Executive's decision making process.

My Departmental officials are keen to work with your officials to understand fully the proposals, identify the sectors set to be impacted, scope potential mitigations and set out the size and significance of those impacts.

I would suggest that the future paper could be adjusted to bring out the health, economic and societal impacts of each option, and consider ranking the options. As such a lead department to co-ordinate assessment against each of these options should be identified.

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**