

**Departmental Comments provided by: Name Redacted EU Exit International Trade and Migration Division**

The exemptions address concerns that the Department had with regard to frontier workers and workers with specialist technical skills, required for essential or emergency works to ensure the continued production and manufacture of goods.

However, Invest NI (INI) have raised the following wider potential economics concerns with the Department with regard to the self-isolation LCM as follows:

- Loss of new foreign direct investment – INI is currently implementing virtual programmes for senior executives/decision makers. Prior to making a decision, they have to visit NI. It is not expected that such visits will be made in the future, if there is a requirement to quarantine for 14 days. Ultimately, this will have a serious adverse impact on FDI visits and decisions to invest in Northern Ireland.
- Loss of export opportunities - –linked to the above, NI exporters may be similarly disinclined to travel overseas for business development if they have to self-isolate for 14 days on their return. Also, loss of inward buyer visits and more obviously visits by overseas officials and delegations.
- Loss of existing foreign direct investment - there is a risk that NI loses out in the process of re-shoring activity by major economies e.g. USA. If senior corporate executives feel that they are not able to visit NI operating sites (whether they would fly themselves or not) it will be an easy reason for them to put a red line through such sites if global rationalisation is being implemented and choices between international sites are being made. Over time it will also result in an “out of sight, out of mind” with senior executives which itself will prove very dangerous.

**Departmental Comments provided by: Geraldine Fee, Telecoms and Tourism**

- The draft list of exemptions to the requirement to self-isolate, which were provided at Annex A to the Executive paper, do not appear to provide cover for the telecoms sector.
- Telecoms policy is reserved and led by DCMS.
- DCMS has advised DfE that Telecoms will be included and has provided to UKG an agreed legal definition that points to the Electronics Communications Network reference: Communications Act 2003, giving an exemption for essential telecommunications work.
- Confirmation should be requested that this is the case in the final version of the Annex A.
- Appreciate that this first and foremost a health issue. However it is important to note that air (and sea access) is essential for Northern Ireland tourism, and GB is a key market. Would welcome clarification that the restrictions outlined will only apply to visitors arriving in NI from international destinations, and not those arriving from GB.

**FROM: DIANE DODDS MLA**

**Our Ref:**

**Your Ref: EXEC-0145-2020**

**DATE: xx May 2020**

**TO: FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST**

**DRAFT EXECUTIVE PAPER: MEMORANDUM E (20) 98 (C): UK GOVERNMENT PLANS TO BRING IN REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE DECLARATIONS AND TO SELF-ISOLATE ON ARRIVAL IN THE UK**

Thank you for your draft Executive paper of 14 May 2020 regarding the above.

I note and agree to the recommendations in the paper but also wish to highlight the potential economic impacts arising which are as follows:

- Loss of new foreign direct investment – Invest NI is currently implementing virtual programmes for senior executives/decision makers. Prior to making a decision, they have to visit NI. It is not expected that such visits will be made in the future, if there is a requirement to quarantine for 14 days. Ultimately, this will have a serious adverse impact on FDI visits and decisions to invest in Northern Ireland.
- Loss of export opportunities - –linked to the above, NI exporters may be similarly disinclined to travel overseas for business development if they have to self-isolate for 14 days on their return. Also, the loss of inward buyer visits and more obviously visits by overseas officials and delegations.
- Loss of existing foreign direct investment - there is a risk that NI loses out in the process of re-shoring activity by major economies e.g. USA. If senior corporate executives feel that they are not able to visit NI operating sites, it will be a potential reason for them to disregard such sites if global rationalisation is being implemented and choices between international sites are being made.

In relation to telecoms:

- The draft list of exemptions to the requirement to self-isolate, which were provided at Annex A, do not appear to provide cover for the telecoms sector.
- Telecoms policy is reserved and led by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

- DCMS has advised DfE that Telecoms will be included and has provided an agreed legal definition that points to the Electronics Communications Network reference: Communications Act 2003, giving an exemption for essential telecommunications work. I would ask that you seek confirmation from the UK Government that this is the case in the final version of the Annex A.

In relation to Tourism, I appreciate that this first and foremost a health issue. However it is important to note that air and sea access is essential for Northern Ireland tourism, and GB is a key market. I would welcome clarification that the restrictions outlined will only apply to visitors arriving in NI from international destinations, and not those arriving from GB.

I am copying this to the Attorney General, Departmental Solicitor's Office, First Legislative Counsel and to Executive Secretariat.

**DIANE DODDS MLA**