

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Mr Alex Maskey MLA
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Dear *Alex,*

Assembly Questions to the Minister of Health

Further to our discussion on Monday I am writing formally with regards to my Departmental Assembly Business.

I advised you of the necessary re-prioritisation of work that my Department has undertaken to best tackle the risks to public health and social care in Northern Ireland caused by the COVID-19 Virus.

Our approach means that I have had to significantly redeploy Departmental resources which, in turn, has created unavoidable pressures in carrying out normal 'business as usual' activities.

As such, I am writing to request that you communicate with MLA's to ask for a suspension of Assembly Questions to myself (both written and oral). Whilst Assembly Questions do have an important scrutiny and information function, the reality is that the significant energy spent on responding to these is resource that my Department can ill afford at this time of great public health emergency.

I hope you will agree that it is in the public interest that my officials and I remain primarily focused on the task at hand over the coming period in relation to COVID-19.

I am conscious that the Assembly not only has a desire, but also a duty to request the latest information relating to this unprecedented and rapidly changing situation, and I am therefore committed to providing Members with regular updates as developments occur.

Personal Data

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health