




MEETING NOTE: 19 August 2020

INV Number: Irrelevant & Sensitive

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Meeting re Cranswick and COVID-19	
VENUE:	<input type="checkbox"/> e.g. PB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:	ZOOM
LIST OF ATTENDEES:		Minister Robin Swann Michael McBride – CMO Lorde Geoghegan - DoH NR – PHA NR DoH	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS	
OFFICIALS:	Denis McMahon Robert Huey Brian Dooher Name Redacted		
OTHERS:	Name Redacted		
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the COVID-19 outbreak in Cranswick. Minister Poots welcomed everyone to meeting. He acknowledged and recognised Minister Swann’s approach and highlighted how well Cranswick have managed situation over past couple of months in fight against spread of Covid-19 within plant. He noted how Agri-food employs 10% of population; 32% of manufacturing sector, necessary to feed population. Minister Poots raised the point of the impact of the closure of Cranswick: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cranswick - 18 factories across GB; 1 in Northern Ireland. 12,000 pigs slaughtered per week. Locally 4,000 can be picked up will leave 8,000 pigs (16,000 pigs over next 2 weeks) On farm slaughter to be considered if longer than 2 week closure. Disposal significant cost associated including compensation costs. Associated animal welfare and mental health issues on farms. Minister Poots questioned the methodology being used and asked for a clear demonstration required that same methodology used elsewhere, including examples. Minister Poots raised his concerns to closure of Cranswick plant. 			

- Minister Swann stated that the first positive case connected to Cranswick plant was identified on 27 July and that early engagement was intense with Cranswick. The methodology has been used elsewhere and positive co-operation from plants and plant managers.
 - PHA/DoH requested Cranswick to provide and put in place a testing programme to test all staff within factory to give PHA/DoH reassurance but there have been concerns about the level of positive engagement from Cranswick following the initial engagement. The offer of a mobile testing unit available/offered to Cranswick was not taken up.
 - Contact tracing and early indications have identified a number of outbreaks across Cullybackey and Ballymena leading back to factory.
 - Following same methods used across England, Scotland, Wales and RoI which is to close factory and request staff to self-isolate for 10 or 14 days (depending on their circumstances).
 - PHA/HSENI/DAERA involvement from early stage to support workers and factory. They have supplied guidance and advice in multiple languages involved local inter-ethnic forum.
 - Michael McBride – Chief Medical Officer gave a brief overview in relation to similar situation other plants stating that the situation was retrievable 2½ week ago and his professional advice as CMO advice is this is not now retrievable. Must assume everyone in plant potentially infected need to immediately move to test everyone within plant next 48 hours and they need to self-isolate which PHA commence and complete this testing.
 - He highlighted negative engagement from Cranswick in relation to PHA/Department/HSENI/DAERA colleagues compared to level of positive engagement from other companies within sector with UK and RoI using the same approach that PHE used in England and Wales regarding recent outbreak in Anglesey.
 - Michael went on to say that If the situation was not managed correctly there was a risk of a lock down in Mid and East Antrim. They are already seeing the prevalence of new infections within last 7 days rising from modest levels comparable to rest of Northern Ireland - up to 55.3 per 100,000. Compared to Tyrone and Fermanagh sitting at less than 3 per 100,000. **LPP/LAP**
- LPP/LAP**
- Robert Huey CVO (DAERA) provided a brief overview in relation to Cranswick and Foyle Meats recent situation. It is difficult to determine what is community and work based cross infection. DAERA has actively engaged and facilitated meetings between PHA and Industry. Regarding 2 DAERA staff who contracted Covid-19, it is believed that this was via community transmission. Robert stressed that a phased dis-engagement and phased engagement is required.
 - Brian Dooher provided an update around recent meetings and discussions with PHA and Cranswick. He re-iterated that all staff at Cranswick plant should be tested as they leave today.
 - **NR** provided a brief overview in relation to industry meeting with Cranswick at 11am this morning. He stated that staff who refuse to be tested must self-isolate for 14 days due to being in close contact with positive case. The recommendations from PHA e.g. rapid testing offered to Cranswick management.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In conclusion it was agreed that Minister Swann to write to Minister Poots with exact requirements (attached below).  <p>Requirements for Cranswick Country F</p>	
<p>Issues agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 	
<p>ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTION POINT 1: Minister Swann to write to Minister Poots with exact requirements to be taken. Action – DoH staff 	
<p>Minutes written by:</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Name Redacted</div> <p>Private Secretary</p>	<p>DATE:</p> <p>20 August 2020</p>