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**FROM: EDWIN POOTS MLA**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

**DATE: 24 JULY 2020**

**TO: FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

**FINAL EXECUTIVE PAPER: COVID 19 – INDICATIVE TIMELINE, EXECUTIVE RATIFICATIONS**

I welcome your proposal that spectators should be able to attend outdoor sports events from 24 July as this will permit spectators at horse racing and outdoor equestrian events. I consider there to be a strong case for a similar approach to be taken in respect of indoor equestrian activities and events.

I am satisfied that this would involve a low risk of disease transmission; indoor equestrian centres are generally large well ventilated spaces where social distancing can easily be facilitated.

I note your intention to bring forward separate advice on spectators for indoor sports and would urge you to do this at the earliest opportunity.

This memo has been copied to Ministerial Colleagues, the Attorney General, the Office of the First Legislative Counsel and the Executive Secretariat.

Personal Data

**EDWIN POOTS MLA**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

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