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FROM:

NR

DATE:

16 DECEMBER 2020

TO:

**PS/MINISTER LYONS
PS/MINISTER KEARNEY**

SUBJECT:

**Strategic Enforcement Group Meeting 16 December –
Officials note**

Issue:

**This is an official's note of the meeting
between Junior Ministers and the Strategic
Enforcement Group.**

Timescale:

Routine, this is a weekly meeting.

Press Office Advice:

N/A

FOI Implications:

**This submission is likely to be disclosed if
requested.**

Financial Implications:

None

Legislative Implications:

N/A

Executive Referral:

N/A

Recommendation:

- **That the Junior Ministers agree the
Minutes at Annex A.**

Drafted by:

NR

Ext:

Cleared by:

Ext

Copy Distribution List

**Karen Pearson
Peter Toogood
Donal Moran
Deirdre Griffith**

NR

**Jane Holmes
Carol Morrow**

NR

NR

**TEO PS Ministers
COVID19Cases**

JUNIOR MINISTER'S OFFICE MEETING NOTE

Date 16 DECEMBER 2020

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		TEO	
PURPOSE:		STRATEGIC ENFORCEMENT/COMPLIANCE GROUP	
DATE:	16/12/20	NOTE WRITTEN BY:	NR
Venue – Online - Zoom		Chaired by Minister Lyons and Minister Kearney	
LIST OF ATTENDEES: Junior Ministers, Dara O'Hagan (SPAD), Alan Todd/Wendy Middleton, PSNI, Mark Goodfellow, DoJ, NR SOLACE NR Anthony Carleton, DfC, NR (DfE), TEO: Jane Holmes, Carol Morrow, NR NR			
<p>Introduction & Welcome</p> <p>JM Lyons provided an update on latest COVID numbers which included 6 deaths in past 24 hours – hospital bed capacity at 104% and no improvement on figures post circuit breaker - however referenced the lag period in figures so full picture not known.</p> <p>Updates</p> <p>SOLACE – NR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfC paper on COVID awareness has been shared with the department and Minister who has issued to all councils requesting measures are implemented at local level. Jacqui will circulate the paper with group. (ACTIONED 16.12.20). SOLACE has liaised with Stakeholders including PSNI – they have agreed to amend the MOU to require councils to increase resources on the ground (particularly on evenings and weekends and this will be in place until 4th January). Antrim and Newtownabbey council issued two improvement notices on Monday. They were the first council in NI to do so and perhaps even the UK. The follow up discussions with Primark and the Abbey Centre have been positive. JM Lyons asked for clarification on process - The next stage is for premises owners to put forward proposals on how they will improve and these are due to be submitted to the Council this afternoon (48hr window). The 			

Council are confident that this will be implemented and Antrim and Newtownabbey Council will provide assistance by the way of providing gazebos, barriers, additional security etc

PSNI – ACC Todd

A overview for the 3 day period Fri-Sun was provided. A summary report will be shared with group (**ACTIONED 16.12.20**)

- 98 visits to public transport hubs/Translink
- 92 visits to parks
- 391 visits to retail
- 190 visits to Licenced premises

Over 3 day period – ‘operation season greetings’ received reports relating to:

- 55 Licenced premises breaching regulations
- 5 retail premises in breach
- 144 gatherings in private dwellings – all public reports

(This included an 18th Birthday party with over 50 people in attendance)

Enforcement

- 125 Fixed Penalty notices of £200
- 41 prohibition to 41 private houses
- 2 penalties to close business large
- 122 community resolution notice – don’t favour these but no alternative in under 18 age bracket
- 16 arrests

There is an increasing trend in Air BnB’s used for gatherings - 34 people at a house party in University Area (from Galway and Dublin). Some members refused to provide contact details and were subsequently arrested.

- JM Kearney expressed disappointment with these figures as most people are complying with Regulations, and sought further detail on spread of breaches for licenced premises and info on Translink visits. ACC Todd advised it’s too early to note any trends in particular areas. Wet pubs are opening with no viable reason. Working with Council partners on this and there is a Co-ordination meeting held each week. In Derry/Londonderry – 2 premises served from one kitchen. Additional guidance would help here. The approach from PSNI is moderately firm but at this stage, the misunderstanding excuse no longer applies. Advice has been given.
- The visits to Translink are part of safer public transport initiative, having a visible presence at transport Hubs where there is potential for social distancing etc to break down or where there is increased likelihood for staff to face abuse for challenging people.
- Communications was also touched on. ACC referenced Monday morning press briefings, repurposing of PSNI vehicles to broadcast Executive messaging in town centres. Mark Goodfellow asked if there is a way to communicate to retail and hospitality. ACC Todd explained there is very

little enforcement in this sector so perhaps more relevant to other sectors already outlined.

- Minister Lyons noted it is useful for people to be aware of the action undertaken by the PSNI around enforcement but recognises there is a balance needed with the public as still need people to comply.
- **NR** stated DfE have previously reached out to close contact services and happy to continue that communication line.
- JM Kearney asked for Jane Holmes to ensure comms team in PSNI are linked in with EIS. **(ACTIONED 16.12.20 Philp from EIS to take forward)**

Update on Executive Decisions and Regulations

- Christmas arrangements on bubbling remain in place.

Next Meeting

- TBC
- Minister Lyons and Minister Kearney thanked attendees for their participation.

ACTION POINTS:

AP1: **NR** to circulate DfC paper on COVID Ambassadors to group **(Actioned 16.12.20)**

AP2: Mark Goodfellow to circulate PSNI 3 day summary report. **(ACTIONED 16.12.20)**

AP3: Jane Holmes to ensure EIS are linked in with PSNI Communications team **(Actioned and **NR** **NR** from EIS taking forward 16.12.20)**

NR