

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting
Friday 24 April 2020**

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Note of Meeting

Attendees

David Sterling (Chair)
Michelle O'Neill - dFM
Declan Kearney - JM
Gordon Lyons – JM
Derek Baker – DE
Michael Bloomfield – NIAS
Mike Brennan – DfE
Katrina Godfrey – DfI
Sue Gray - DOF
Alan Todd – PSNI
Lesley Hogg – NI Assembly
Maria Jennings – FSA
Mark Larmour – NIO
Peter May – DoJ
David Jackson – LG
Joan McCaffrey – LG
Chris McNabb – EIS
Denis McMahon – DAERA
Colum Boyle – DfC
Jill Minne – NICS HR
Aidan Jennings - NIFRS
Michael Graham – NIFRS
Richard Pengelly – DoH
Karen Pearson – TEO
Chris Stewart – TEO
Hugh Widdis – DSO
Name Redacted – TEO
Andrew McCormick – TEO
Anthony Harbinson – TEO
Name Redacted – NI-Hub
Andy Cole – NI Hub
Jane Holmes – NI Hub
Name Redacted – NI Hub

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

First Minister, Arlene Foster, sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting.

2. COVID-19 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PROGNOSIS

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- To date there have been 3,016 confirmed cases in NI and 263 deaths.
- An announcement has been made about the move to the next phase of testing next week.
- He noted that NI was doing well on COVID-19 testing - on 23 April more than 1000 tests were carried out, representing a significantly higher proportion than the other Administrations.

3. ACTIONS REVIEW

David Sterling advised that there were currently 10 live actions, some of which are related. He recommended closing one action:

- **CCG0804/06** - DFI will make the payment to CODA on behalf of the Executive. Agreed to close.

David Sterling requested updates on the following actions:

- **CCG2304/01 – Public Announcement on Ferries, Ports and Airports –**
Draft announcement has been shared with DfI and DOF and this only relates to a deal with the ferry operators at this stage. NIO indicated that the Secretary of State for Transport will make the announcement today.
The Infrastructure Minister is likely to provide an update at the press conference later today.
NIO is checking to see if references to airports could be removed from the DfT press release to avoid confusion.
DOF will provide an update note to the Executive today. Packages for the airports are now for 3 months rather than 2 months as previously proposed.
- **CCG2104/01 - Local Council Enforcement Powers –** Chris Stewart advised that a way forward has been agreed and the final document will be shared with the Executive next week as part of the second formal review of the regulations.
- **CCG1604/03 - Loss of Income for Councils –** Colm Boyle advised that data has been analysed and paperwork completed with figures passed to DoF last night.

- **CCG1304/02 – Regulations (Travel to take exercise)** – Chris Stewart confirmed that draft guidance has been shared with Ministers. Responses are expected from Private Offices.
- **CCG1704/01 - Household Recycling Centres** – Denis McMahon confirmed a correction to the SITREP from 23 April; that the guidance from the DAERA Minister will be issued to the Executive for information not consideration. There will be scope to issue additional guidance as required.
- **Portal** – containing more detailed data than the SITREP will go live today and notifications will be issued once live. Those without a gov.uk email address will be sent e-copies on a weekly basis, or more often if required.

4. SIT-REP UPDATE

Anthony Harbinson took the meeting through the positive issues arising from yesterday's Sit-Rep including:

- A local manufacturer has been repurposed to provide eye protection (visors). Expected delivery of 1.5million units this week ramping up production to 3 million per week.
- DfE Minister has announced the establishment of a Tourism Recovery Steering Group to lead the planning and preparations for the recovery of tourism in NI.
- DfE Minister announced how vocational qualifications will be awarded.
- The CMO informed the Health Committee that an enhanced tracing programme for COVID-19 will start in Northern Ireland next week.

5. LEGISLATION UPDATE

- Chris Stewart advised that there was nothing further to add to the earlier discussion under the actions.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

- **Local Government** – HOCS confirmed that the Executive will consider the issue of opening of cemeteries today.
- **FSA** – welcomed the enhanced testing of key workers indicating that this will help keep companies open and food production flowing.

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- **Infrastructure** – noted that there has been an upward trend in the number of cars on the road. Traffic was down by 59% of normal flow, representing the lowest reduction in traffic since the start of lockdown.
- **Finance** – NISRA will publish care home death statistics at 9:30am.
 - 96 deaths are recorded in total last week – up from 41 the previous week
 - 44 care homes now affected – up from 23 the previous week.
 - The intention is to provide a briefing for journalists to help them understand the data.
- **NI Assembly** – expressed concern that there had been no Ministerial statements this week and none notified for next week.

7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- Chris McNabb (EIS) advised that the media will focus on the NISRA publication on Covid-19 deaths and what the Executive will announce regarding the opening of cemeteries.

8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

No SITREP on Saturday; next one on Sunday 26 April.

Date of next meeting: 08:30, 27 April 2020,

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