

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting  
Thursday 14 May 2020  
Block B, Level 5 Conference Room, Castle Buildings**

**Note of Meeting**

**Attendees**

David Sterling (Chair)  
Arlene Foster - FM  
Declan Kearney - JM  
Gordon Lyons – JM  
Derek Baker – DE  
Michael Bloomfield – NIAS  
Mike Brennan – DfE  
Katrina Godfrey – DfI  
Sue Gray – DOF  
Simon Byrne – PSNI  
Alan Todd - PSNI  
Lesley Hogg – NI Assembly  
Maria Jennings – FSA  
Mark Larmour – NIO  
Peter May – DoJ  
Stephen Reid – LG  
Joan McCaffrey – LG  
Chris McNabb – EIS  
Denis McMahon– DAERA  
Tracy Meharg – DfC  
Jill Minne – NICS HR  
Paddy Gallagher – NIFRS  
Michael Graham - NIFRS  
Richard Pengelly – DoH  
Karen Pearson – TEO  
Chris Stewart – TEO  
NR – TEO  
Andrew McCormick – TEO  
Anthony Harbinson – NI Hub  
Hugh Widdis – DSO  
Donal Moran – NI Hub  
Secretariat – NI Hub

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

## 2. COVID-19 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PROGNOSIS

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- To date there have been 4,253 confirmed cases in NI and 449 deaths;
- The rates of both cases and deaths continued to decline;
- The pressure in hospitals continued to ease. The BCH Nightingale Hospital was being stood-down but held ready in the event that it might be needed in the future; and
- The position of care homes remained a key issue and had been the subject of much media attention. A paper outlining the range and intensity of the measures that had been taken to support care homes was to be considered by the Executive at its meeting later in the day.

## 3. ACTIONS REVIEW

David Sterling requested updates on the following actions:

- **CCG2104/01 – Local Council Enforcement Powers** – Richard Pengelly (DoH) advised that the issue was included in a paper for the Executive at its meeting today.
- **CCG1604/03 – Loss of Income for Councils** – Sue Gray (DoF) advised that the issue around furlough had been agreed. An Executive paper on additional financial support for local councils was expected to be considered at the meeting later today<sup>1</sup>.
- **CCG1304/02 – Regulations** - Richard Pengelly (DoH) confirmed that a paper looking at the current regulations would be considered by the Executive this morning.
- **CCG0904/04 – Haulage Industry / Ferries / Ports** - Mike Brennan (DfE) confirmed that HMT's assertion that there was no obvious market failure within the sector in NI was correct and following an internal review by the Haulage industry, and the implementation of some changes, the market had now improved and no additional support was required. He advised that this Action could now be closed.
- **CCG1404/03 – CCG 28 Day Review** – HOCS advised that the review had been completed and he would circulate the main points coming out of the review early next week. He considered that at this stage matters were well under control and he advised that CCG would only take place on a

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<sup>1</sup> After the CCG meeting it was discovered that the paper on additional funding for councils would be considered at the Executive Meeting on Monday 18 May 2020.

## OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Thursday each week until the end of May. The daily Sit-Rep would be produced from Monday to Friday.

- HOCS also confirmed that around 350 people had contributed to the 10k Volts event. He considered it to have been a good investment of time and hoped to issue a highlight report next week. He thanked those who had taken part.

#### 4. SIT-REP UPDATE

Anthony Harbinson (COS) said that there was a good deal of new data and graphics in the Sit-Rep that members may find helpful.

He confirmed that moving forward the Sit-Rep will be produced from Monday to Friday each week.

Richard Pengelly noted that the key point of the graphs on hospitalisations (page 5 of the Sit-Rep) was to show trend information. As presented they illustrated the same trend and he suggested a single, larger graph may be more user-friendly. Anthony agreed to look at these graphs before the next Sit-Rep issued later today.

#### 5. LEGISLATION UPDATE

Chris Stewart (TEO) advised that there was no further update beyond that already provided within the actions overview.

#### 6. MEMBER UPDATES

**PSNI** – ACC Todd noted the potential for some changes to the regulations with regards to restrictions; that the Attorney General would be discussing the regulations with the Justice Committee later today and that work on the recovery phase was moving ahead. On those bases PSNI would be considering its position in terms of Gold Command and on a potential shift away from enforcement. HOCS said he would welcome PSNI feedback as things progressed.

**DfC** - Tracy Meharg advised that 2 papers are expected to be discussed by the Executive today. The paper on local Council finance discussed under Actions plus a paper on support for charities.

#### 7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

Chris McNabb (EIS) advised there was nothing further to add to that discussed earlier in the agenda.

**8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Date of next meeting:** 08:30, Thursday 21 May 2020, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Block B, Castle Buildings.