

Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting

Monday 20 April 2020

I&S

Note of Meeting

Attendees

David Sterling (Chair)
Arlene Foster - FM
Michelle O'Neill - dFM
Declan Kearney - JM
Gordon Lyons – JM
Anthony Harbinson - TEO
Chris Stewart – TEO
Karen Pearson – TEO
Andrew McCormick - TEO
Katrina Godfrey - DfI
Richard Pengelly – DoH
Mike Brennan - DfE
Denis McMahon – DAERA
Peter May - DoJ
Sue Gray - DoF
Jill Minne – NICSHR
Derek Baker - DE
Tracy Meharg – DfC
CC Simon Bryne – PSNI
ACC Alan Todd – PSNI
Michael Graham - NIFRS
Michael Bloomfield - NIAS
David Jackson – Local Government
Joan McCaffrey – Local Government
Maria Jennings – Food Standards Agency
Mark Larmour – NIO
Chris McNabb – EIS TEO
Hugh Widdis – DSO
NR – TEO
Lesley Hogg - NI Assembly
Jonathan Porter - SIB
Jane Holmes – NI Hub
NR – NI Hub

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. COVID-19 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PROGNOSIS

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- To date there had been 2,645 confirmed cases in NI and 194 deaths.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

- Only 1 death occurred yesterday, but he cautioned the meeting that we should consider the ongoing trend overall and not to put too much focus on either a sudden dip in figures or a sudden spike.
- There is a focus at present on social care issues, with a paper from DoH going to the Executive meeting today.

3. ACTIONS REVIEW

David Sterling asked for updates on outstanding CCG actions:

CCG1704/01 – Household Recycling Centres – This issue was considered at the Executive meeting on 17 April. The outcome was that DAERA would urgently prepare a further paper for consideration by the Executive.

CCG1304/02 – Regulations – a policy paper was considered by the Executive on 17 April. No agreement on changes to the regulations and the issue is to be reconsidered by the Executive at the end of the week.

CCG1604/03 - Loss of income for councils – Issue to be considered alongside others pressures by DoF.

CCG0904/04 – Support to Haulage and Ferry Companies – There has been progress on providing support for ferry companies, with an announcement due later today. More work is needed on support for haulage companies.

CCG0804/06 – Support for Airports – An announcement on the support agreed for local airports was expected in the next few days.

4. SIT-REP UPDATE

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

- The NI DoH Public Facing Information Dashboard is now live and will replace the daily report from DoH. The Dashboard will now be incorporated into the NI Hub Sitrep.
Action: DoH dashboard to be integrated into the SitRep (NIHub Analytics)
- DfE are working with local universities in relation to the UK wide higher education institutions amending admissions practices to secure additional

student income from other UK students. Mike Brennan advised that local and devolved universities had a number of concerns with the UK wide approach and discussions were ongoing.

- 350 sports clubs and organisations have applied for financial assistance through the DfC Hardship Fund for Sport. The Hardship Fund has been increased by 50%. Sports NI have suspended the scheme pending assessment of applications already submitted.

5. LEGISLATION UPDATE

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

6. MEMBER UPDATES

- PSNI updated the meeting that the number of travel enforcement tickets they have been issuing has been reducing, which has been offset by an increase in traffic volumes. PSNI requested clarity on guidance and enforcement in respect of 'travel to exercise' in light of the Attorney general's letter and 'travelling to recycling centres'. It was agreed that all parties would work together to provide clarity on these issues.
- Peter May updated the meeting that the issue concerning provision of PPE for funeral directors was ongoing.

7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- Chris McNabb (EIS) advised the meeting that the daily press conference today would be led by the Health Minister and the Chief Scientific Officer on revised modelling.

8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting

- 08:30, 21 April 2020,

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