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**FROM: ANTHONY HARBINSON** **Copy Distribution List Below**

**DATE: 02 APRIL 2020**

**TO: FIRST MINISTER and DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

**SUBJECT: FUTURE COBR (M) MEETINGS**

1. I was asked to clarify the position in relation to future COBR (Ministerial) meetings
2. Cabinet Office, Civil Contingencies Secretariat confirmed that no further COBR (M) meetings are currently planned.
3. Following the introduction of the new governance arrangements through sectoral Ministerial Implementation Groups in March 2020, which are designed to deal with the emerging issues, COBRA (M) chaired by the Prime Minister was stood down.
4. It would be appropriate for you to consider if you wish to send a letter to Cabinet Office requesting the Prime Minister to convene a full COBR.
5. A draft letter is attached for your consideration at Annex A and I am aware that a draft joint letter drafted by the Welsh Government has also been circulated for your consideration if you wish to join with Wales and Scotland in seeking a full COBR meeting.

**Anthony Harbinson**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**NI HUB**

**Cc HoCS**  
**Karen Pearson**  
**Chris Stewart**  
**Bernie Rooney**

Name Redacted

Name Redacted

## **DRAFT LETTER**

The Right Honourable Boris Johnston MP

XX March 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to seek an urgent meeting of COBR(M) to discuss the planning for extension of restrictions of movement. While we appreciate the role being played by the Ministerial Implementation Groups in dealing with emerging issues, we feel that it is essential that there is a meeting of senior Ministers to agree at strategic level what further needs to be done in relation to restrictions so that this information could be provided to the public as soon as possible and before Easter.

We are copying this letter to the First Minister of Scotland and the First Minister of Wales.

**Arlene Foster**  
**First Minister**

**Michelle O'Neill**  
**deputy First Minister**