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**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Department of Health**  
**Castle Buildings**  
**Stormont Estate**  
**Belfast BT4 3SQ**

9 September 2020

Dear Robin,

## **CORONAVIRUS SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION**

As we move into the next phase of tackling the Covid-19 pandemic, we wanted to advise you of the priorities of the Executive Office in the coming months, and the implications for the handling of subordinate legislation. In practice, we must focus in the short term on the recovery strategy and, beyond that, to the development of a new Programme for Government (PFG) and the implementation of the '*New Decade, New Approach*' (NDNA) agreement.

As you know, since March Junior Ministers Kearney and Lyons have led during the Assembly scrutiny of the Covid-19 Regulations, and the various subsequent amending regulations. We very much welcomed that opportunity to support you, and to demonstrate coherent and collective leadership by the Executive during the lockdown phase.

Looking ahead, that coherence remains important, but must now reflect the evolving priorities of the recovery phase. In practical terms, Ministers Kearney and Lyons will need to give priority to their oversight of civic engagement on the development of the PFG, and to supporting us in our leadership of economic and social recovery, and taking forward the key actions in NDNA.

In these circumstances, we feel that the time is right for you to take over the lead role in Assembly scrutiny of Covid-19 legislation.

We will, of course, continue to support you in the Executive and the Assembly, and our officials will continue to work closely with your as we move forward.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

**THE RT HON ARLENE FOSTER MLA  
FIRST MINISTER**

Personal Data

**MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA  
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

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