

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 11 MAY 2020

MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO LINK

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Justice

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)
Secretary to the Executive
Head of Executive & Central Advisory Division TEO

Mr Peter May, Permanent Secretary, Department of Justice
Dr Andrew McCormick, Director of International Relations,
TEO

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired items 1 – 5.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 26 Minutes of Executive meeting of 7 May 2020

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 7 May 2020 were agreed.

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Matters Arising

2. The Executive noted that, as agreed at the Executive meeting of 7 May, the Minister of Health had circulated a final version of Executive Memorandum E (20) 90 (C) - Planning for Recovery: Second Review of Health Protection (Coronavirus: Restrictions) (Northern Ireland) Regulation 2020, incorporating amendments which had been requested at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister

3. The Minister of Health provided updates on developments and current issues in the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on testing capacity, PPE, staffing support and recording of information in respect of care homes.
4. It was agreed that the Minister of Health would:
 - (i) commission a paper from the Chief Scientific Officer on the definition of R;
 - (ii) circulate a paper on the measures and timetable required to implement a universal testing regime;
 - (iii) circulate a paper detailing the current support measures for care homes;
 - (iv) consult further with the Minister of Finance about the potential utilisation of staffing capacity within the NI Civil Service to provide a COVID-19 test/trace resource.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

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Action Log

5. The First Minister advised that the Action Log from the previous Executive meeting had been circulated to Ministers.
6. The Minister of Justice requested urgent consideration of designation of other organisations as well as PSNI as enforcement bodies in relation to the COVID-19 regulations.
7. The Secretary to the Executive advised that he would engage with the Department of Health and the Department of Justice on the matter.

AGENDA ITEM 4

CCG Sitrep

8. The Secretary to the Executive provided a read-out of the CCG meeting and the Situation Report which had been circulated to Ministers. He advised that the Executive Information Service was developing clear public messaging around the statement to be made by the First Minister and deputy First Minister the following day.

AGENDA ITEM 5

COVID-19 Management

E (20) 94 (C) Executive Approach to Coronavirus Decision-Making

9. The First Minister and the Secretary to the Executive introduced this paper, which had been updated following previous discussion at the Executive meeting of 7 May.

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10. Following discussion, the Executive agreed that further amendments should be made to the paper to reflect Ministers' comments with a view to further consideration and final agreement of the document later in the day, to enable the First Minister and deputy First Minister to make a statement to the Assembly, and to publish the document the following day. Following further consultation, the paper was subsequently agreed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the Ministerial Code.

The deputy First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 6

Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee

11. The deputy First Minister provided details of Ministers' forward engagement with the Assembly Ad Hoc Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 7

BREXIT

E (20) 95

EU Exit Updates

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AGENDA ITEM 8

Other matters requiring Executive Agreement

15. There were no papers for this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 8

Any other business

Garden Centres

16. The Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs raised the need for the opening of garden centres as part of easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Date of next meeting

17. The next meeting of the Executive would take place on Thursday 14 May at 10.00 a.m.

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