

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**TEO FIRST MINISTER'S OFFICE MEETING NOTE**

<b>TITLE/ORGANISATION:</b>		Michael Gove, SOS MCHLG/FM/dFM		
<b>DATE:</b>	12 Dec 2021	<b>NOTE WRITTEN BY:</b>		
		Deirdre Griffith		
<b>VENUE:</b>	Teams	1:00 pm		FM Adviser: Philip Weir dFM Adviser: Dara O'Hagan
<p><b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b> First Minister      deputy First Minister  Philip Weir, Special Adviser FM      Dara O'Hagan, Special Adviser dFM  Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM      <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Name Redacted</span>, PS JM Kearney  Robin Swann, Minister of Health      Michael McBride, CMO  Jayne Brady, HOCS  Michael Gove, SOS MHCLG      Sajid Javid, SOS Health and Social Care  Chris Whitty, UK CMO  FM Scotland      FM Wales</p>				
<p>SOS MCHLG, SOS HSC, CMO and UK officials provided updates covering:  <b>PM to broadcast</b> to nation tonight:  <b>data position – showed rising cases</b> across the UK with rapid doubling times, significant increase in 20-29 age group and some stabilisation in South Africa but too early to draw conclusions;  proposed increase to <b>alert level 4</b> based on CMO discussions;  outlined plans for <b>acceleration of booster delivery</b> with aim to reach peak delivery levels to match that achieved in March 2021; mass vaccination centres being stood up, ai to have access in every town at accessible locations, primary card will focus on vaccines, medical and nursing students to be trained to administer vaccinations, other staff being recruited , volunteers being sought, 1/3 of slots not used in London today need to be available where needed, 'nobody left behind' eg use of vaccine buses longer opening hours  <b>Aim by 31 Dec to have provided the chance for everybody eligible to have had chance to be vaccinated;</b>  <b>15 min wait time to be reduced based</b> on medical balance of risk;  In race against vaccine – 2 vaccinations is not enough but booster makes a difference;  In this 'emergency' phase there will be an impact on GP and other routine hospital appointments;  <b>No issue with supply of vaccines;</b></p>				

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	<p><b>Nationwide media campaign</b> to be undertaken.</p> <p><b>FM SG:</b> Impact on GP care is significant; other steps are needed to slow transmission; need Treasury input in Scotland even if UK don't take further steps; security of supply of LFTs; PCR infrastructure tests; need increase in daily testing capacity.</p> <p><b>FM Wales:</b> Evidence for reduction in 15 min wait times; ensure demand matches supply in relation to availability of boosters; tone of PM broadcast.</p> <p><b>FM NI:</b> Appreciate early insight to any English proposals for further action; like others moving to accelerate boosters; comms is important – message should be keep open and operate safely and hope that can continue not 'keep open and get thru Xmas'.</p> <p><b>dFM:</b> Important that if interventions needed that funding is provided. Communication is key especially between Health Ministers and CMOs welcomed this call but – seems to have struggled in recent days as not aware in advance of COBRA call on Friday of AZ vaccine escape or of proposed change to alert level before this call.</p> <p>In response it was noted: Fast moving situation; heavyweight media campaign being rolled out – 'get boosted now'; HMT grateful for engagement and are prioritising resource for vaccine deployment; accelerating decision making for procurement; no proposals for funding beyond Barnett at the moment; daily contact testing in England from Tuesday regardless of variant; details provided of the available PCR and LFT tests, turnaround times for testing still meeting targets despite some local issues in Glasgow.</p> <p><b>FM NI:</b> indicated support for SG view on HMT funding – a UK triggered approach does not recognise the speed of move of the virus in different parts of the UK. .</p> <p><b>FM Wales:</b> referenced previous HMT exchange of letters regarding funding in case of public health need when Wales had taken steps ahead of England.</p> <p>In conclusion SOS for MHCLG indicated PM will broadcast after Cabinet meeting; importance of maintaining testing capacity, a coordinated approach to communication around boosters and that further engagement is needed on economic impact of public health interventions with HMT.</p>
<b>ACTION POINTS:</b>	Further meeting on 13 December – possibly COBRA.