

TEO FIRST MINISTER'S OFFICE MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Minister of Health, Robin Swann; Chief Medical Officer, Michael McBride; Chief Scientific Adviser, Ian Young.		
DATE:	8 September 2020, 8pm	NOTE WRITTEN BY: Deirdre Griffith		
VENUE:	Zoom			Advisers: Philip Weir and Emma Little Pengelly
LIST OF ATTENDEES: Included FM and dFM, JM Lyons and JM Kearney Also Richard Pengelly, Perm Sec Health; NR PS Health ; Mark Ovens, SPAD Health; Dara O'Hagan, SPAD dFM TEO; John Loughran, SPAD dFM TEO; Karen Pearson, TEO; Donal Moran, PPS dFM				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>CMO updated Ministers on current position on R number and draft paper for potential consideration by the Executive on local restrictions. High concern due to increase in cases. Action needed now to prevent further increases.</p> <p>General discussion took place covering a number of points including:</p> <p>Context in UK/ROI and other EU countries including efficacy of different measures. Different approaches being followed in Belgium and France.</p> <p>Consensus that measures if required based on postcode or local council area might be best rather than whole of NI approach but would be subject to consideration by the Executive on Thursday 10 September.</p> <p>Concerns about treatment of towns with differing post codes.</p> <p>Balance of measures relating to household interactions vs more regulated environments and linked economic and social impacts.</p> <p>Timing of changes given return of universities and student welfare issues depending on approach taken.</p> <p>Enforcement issues – regulation vs guidance.</p>		

	<p>Key objective to present a range of interventions designed to reduce interactions between individuals.</p> <p>Importance of clear communication of difficult message and the need to engage with Executive colleagues and local government leaders.</p> <p>There was also a discussion on an indicative opening date for wet pubs – not possible to keep closed indefinitely - view that sector would be compliant and manage the risk. Want to avoid “pub” tourism with travel to ROI if pubs not open in NI. Would be a difficult message.</p>
ACTION POINTS:	<p>FM and dFM to discuss further the timing and sequencing of engagement with key influences on 9 September.</p> <p>Further information on the approach in Belgium to be provided.</p> <p>Executive to consider Health paper on Thursday 10 September.</p>