

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

## TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		FM / dFM call with MoH, CMO, CSA	
DATE:	1 September 2020 at 7.30PM	NOTE WRITTEN BY:	NR
VENUE:	Virtual		dFM Advisers: Stephen McGlade, John Loughran
<b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b> First Minister, Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA (FM) Deputy First Minister, Michelle O'Neill MLA (dFM) Gordon Lyons, Junior Minister FM Robin Swann, Minister of Health NR PS DoH Dr Michael McBride, CMO Prof Ian Young, CSA Stephen McGlade, Special Adviser dFM John Loughran, Special Adviser dFM Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM NR PS FM Donal Moran, PPS dFM NR PS dFM Karen Pearson, TEO			
<b>KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:</b>		MoH indicated that the R-number was steady at 1.3 but that there was an increase in ICU and hospital admissions. Certain council areas have concerning cases numbers. There is an outbreak in Craigavon Hospital. The police are taking a more pro-active approach to pubs.  The CSA that only 10% of cases were in over 60s and that the testing strategy had changed.  The MoH noted that the messaging had been changed regarding house parties. The FM noted that pubs continue to be an issue and guidance needed changed into regulation.	

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	<p>KP noted that there are sectoral issues regarding powers, guidance and face coverings. Reviewing Hospitality Ulster's proposals the main issues are that pubs shut at the same time, removing live music and dancing.</p> <p>The CMO noted that the advice was to take the powers to issue fines. The FM queried whether that was to take the powers but not use them. CMO indicated that there were a number of events pending and that he hoped to engage positively with the organisers.</p> <p>FM expressed that a number of pubs are gaming the guidance regarding serving food. KP indicated that she would engage with the PSNI regarding prohibition notices and provision of granular detail. MoH noted that pubs serving food should be registered with Environmental Health.</p> <p>FM noted that pub closures will require financial support. MoH noted that potential fixed penalty notices of up to £10k for event organisers would send a strong message. FM indicated that she would support this but required clarity on events. KP indicated that fines would be on a sliding scale.</p> <p>dFM queried what was the Health advice regarding the Cookstown 100 event. CSA indicated that he had discussed with organisers and that there were lots of potential mitigations including an absence of spectators. However organisers prefer to proceed with around 2000 spectators. We have concerns regarding the size of the group.</p> <p>dFM asked regarding the impact of schools re-opening. CMO indicated that he had twice weekly calls with DE and EA regarding the application of the guidance. The EA have set up help lines and the EA and PHA guidance is being aligned. There is a volume of calls to NI direct of around 800 parents regarding testing.</p> <p>CMO noted engagement with the BAME community and other hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Regarding face coverings, KP outlined that there was around 80-90% compliance in big shops however there are pockets of non-compliance in small shops and petrol stations. Current engagement with HSENI re: construction and the Rowan Centre re: victims of serious sexual violence. There is a communications campaign with the disability sector.</p>
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	In response to a query from dFM, MoH indicated that changes to the travel restrictions regarding Portugal were likely. Travel is not a big factor in case numbers. He indicated the main drivers are house parties and under-40s. The drivers of cases in Belfast are harder to pin down.
<b>ACTION POINTS:</b>	