

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting  
Thursday 7 May 2020  
Block B, Level 5 Conference Room, Castle Buildings**

**Note of Meeting**

**Attendees**

David Sterling (Chair)  
Arlene Foster - FM  
Michelle O'Neill - dFM  
Declan Kearney - JM  
Gordon Lyons – JM  
Derek Baker – DE  
Michael Bloomfield – NIAS  
Mike Brennan – DfE  
Katrina Godfrey – DfI  
Sue Gray – DOF  
Chief Constable Simon Byrne – PSNI  
Lesley Hogg – NI Assembly  
NR – FSA  
Mark Larmour – NIO  
Peter May – DoJ  
Stephen Reid – LG  
Ray Hall – LG  
Chris McNabb – EIS  
Denis McMahon – DAERA  
Tracy Meharg – DfC  
Jill Minne – NICS HR  
NR – NIFRS  
NR – NIFRS  
Richard Pengelly – DoH  
Karen Pearson – TEO  
Chris Stewart – TEO  
NR – TEO  
Andrew McCormick – TEO  
Anthony Harbinson – NI Hub  
Hugh Widdis – DSO  
Donal Moran – NI Hub  
Secretariat – NI Hub

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **COVID-19 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PROGNOSIS**

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- To date there have been 3,934 confirmed cases in NI and 418 deaths;
- The trend in cases and deaths continues to soften but the pace and numbers are not falling as quickly as he would have liked;
- A paper on the review of the current regulations issued to the Executive last night and is expected to be discussed today; and
- Training of contact tracers was ongoing.

3. **ACTIONS REVIEW**

David Sterling requested updates on the following actions:

- **CCG2104/01 – Local Council Enforcement Powers** – David Sterling advised that this issue will be discussed as part of the review of regulations being considered by the Executive today.
- **CCG1604/03 – Loss of Income for Councils** – Sue Gray (DoF) and Tracy Meharg (DfC) advised that work was ongoing on the paper and was almost ready to go to the Executive.
- **CCG1304/02 – Review of Regulations** – David Sterling advised that this issue will be discussed as part of the review of regulations being considered by the Executive today. Stephen Reid advised that some HRC's had already opened, some were planning to re-open while the rest were waiting on the outcome of the review of regulations.

4. **SIT-REP UPDATE**

Anthony Harbinson (COS) took the meeting through the main issues arising from the Sit-Rep including:

- DoF – Minister announces £6.75m for hospices.
- DfE announced a free skills programme for small businesses and a free post-graduate certificate in software development for people whose career has been impacted by Covid-19.
- DfI have highlighted that ferries are reporting a slight upturn in freight volumes this week.

- DfI – Met Office have given early indication that severe weather warnings for thunderstorms are likely for Thursday 7 May and Friday 8 May.

Anthony also drew attention to the new graphs included on pages 18 and 19 of the Sit-Rep which showed the different measures that European counties were taking in relation to easing lockdown.

David Sterling added that this information would be useful for the review of the regulations being undertaken by the Executive and that it was important to continue to collate this information.

Anthony confirmed that the data portal was up and running and members of CCG should now have access.

## **5. LEGISLATION UPDATE**

Chris Stewart (TEO) advised that early indications are that there is unlikely to be any change to the regulations in Scotland or Wales in this review round but little information was coming out of Whitehall in relation to the outcome of the UKG review and what changes, if any, they may make. UKG announcement likely to be on Sunday.

## **6. MEMBER UPDATES**

**PSNI** - CC Simon Byrne (PSNI) thanked Anthony for the inclusion of the Incidents Reported to PSNI statistics on pages 5 and 6 of the Sit-Rep. He advised that there had been a reduction in the number of fines being issued in relation breach of the regulations with the main offenders being males in the 18-24 age group. He further advised that resources were being scaled up for the bank holiday weekend, as given the forecast of bad weather it may force people inside and issues around alcohol likely to increase. He also stated that it was important that the correct message continues to be communicated around social distancing for the weekend.

**NIAS** – [ ] **NR** advised that their operation was stable with good cover for the bank holiday weekend. He also noted that there had been an increase in demand over the past week which he thought was due to people listening to the message that it was safe to go hospital.

**LG** – Stephen Reid asked that any change to the regulations following the review be communicated to local councils as early as possible to allow councils time to prepare for any changes impacting on them.

**FSA** – [ ] **NR** advised that they were pulling together a portal to provide guidance and advice to businesses.

**NIO** – Mark Larmour confirmed that there was a Cabinet meeting later today to discuss the next steps with an announcement likely on Sunday. He confirmed that he would share any information once it became available.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

Chris McNabb (EIS) advised there was heavy messaging yesterday around staying at home over the weekend and this would continue today. This message would also be included in the Executive Press Conference at 4pm today.

Chief Constable Byrne advised that PSNI would be giving a press conference following the meeting of the Policing Board today and they would include the stay at home message in their press conference.

**8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

David Sterling confirmed that the “10,000 volts” event would take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10am for 1 hour and that the invitations had issued.

He also advised that he expected the review of CCG to be completed early next week and the frequency of future CCG meetings will be included as part of that.

**Date of next meeting:** 08:30, Monday 11 May 2020, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Block B, Castle Buildings.