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**Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting
Tuesday 28 April 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

I&S – PSNI

ACC Alan Todd – PSNI
Lesley Hogg – NI Assembly
Maria Jennings – FSA
Mark Larmour – NIO
Peter May – DoJ
David Jackson – LG
Joan McCaffrey – LG
Chris McNabb – EIS
Denis McMahon – DAERA
Colum Boyle – DfC
Jill Minne – NICS HR

Name Redacted

Richard Pengelly – DoH
Karen Pearson – TEO
Chris Stewart – TEO
Bernie Rooney – TEO
Hugh Widdis – DSO

NR – TEO

Andrew McCormick – TEO
Anthony Harbinson – TEO

NR – NI Hub

Secretariat – NI Hub

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

David Sterling apologised on behalf of the NI Hub for errors in yesterday's SitRep, including the incorrect death figures. He provided assurances that it would not be repeated and that he had requested that Siobhan Carey, NISRA, provide training on the interpretation and use of data within the NI Hub. There was also an error on page 12 with the inclusion of DAERA having responsibility for an action in relation to haulage which should have been attributed to DfI, DfE and TEO as the responsibility leads.

Action CCG2804/01: Siobhan Carey (NISRA) to provide masterclass on the interpretation and use of data within the NI Hub

2. COVID-19 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PROGNOSIS

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- The Health Minister announced £6.5m in additional funding for Northern Ireland's care homes
- The Minister also announced 2020/21 Pay award for Health & Social Care staff
- He provided clarity on the definitions used for COVID-19 related deaths.
 - The NI daily figures relate to patients who have had a positive laboratory test for COVID-19 within 28 days of death. Deaths include those in all settings, not just hospitals.
 - This is the same definition which is used in Scotland and Wales, however the English figures relate to deaths within hospital settings only.
 - The NISRA figures include patients who have known or suspected COVID-19 stated on Part 1 or 2 of the death certificate.
 - The RoI definition changed on Friday 24th April 2020 to the WHO definition, which is analogous to the definition used by NISRA.

Action CCG2804/02: DoH to circulate note clarifying definitions of COVID-19 deaths and data

3. ACTIONS REVIEW

David Sterling requested updates on the following actions:

- **CCG2704/01 – Traffic data and public adherence to social distancing –** Chris Stewart (TEO) thanked PSNI colleagues for the use of ANPR data which was a rich dataset. This showed a rising trend over a 4 week period,

which was a cause for concern. He stated that the analysis now required was to understand the destinations and behaviours driving the headline data and requested that all Departments review if any of their existing data sets e.g. attendance figures at key locations, could help inform this. He added that it would be helpful to understand what proportion of the increase in traffic was resulting from a legitimate purpose e.g. workplaces re-opening.

Chris will also liaise with ACC Alan Todd in relation to the potential use of use of cameras near open spaces.

He stated that the policy response would depend on the level of information which was available.

David Sterling noted that yesterday's SitRep contained some helpful maps at Slides 5 and 6 which illustrated the traffic patterns by LGD. ACC Alan Todd noted that police visibility had been highest in coastal resorts and hot spots which was reflected in the LGD data.

Updated Action CCG2704/01: All Departments to review other datasets and provide any additional appropriate information. CS to liaise with PSNI re: traffic cameras near open spaces.

- **CCG2304/01 – Public Announcement on Ferries, Ports and Airports** – Sue Gray (DoF) confirmed that an announcement on the airports support package was still imminent.
- **CCG1704/01 - Household Recycling Centres** – Denis McMahon (DAERA) advised that the guidance had issued from the DAERA Minister to Councils and had been copied to Executive Ministers.
- **CCG0904/04 – Proposed support for the haulage industry** – Mike Brennan (DfE) advised that there was no further update.

4. SIT-REP UPDATE

Anthony Harbinson reiterated apologies for the errors in yesterday's SitRep. He took the meeting through the main issues arising including:

- A number of Ministerial Announcements:
 - Health Minister announcement of the 2020/21 Pay Award and financial support package for Care Homes.
 - Communities Ministers announcement of funding for the Arts Sector.

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- Infrastructure Minister announcement of temporary changes to the process for major planning applications.
- The Balmoral Show has now been cancelled.
- Bombardier re-opening, with B&Q and Caterpillar already open.
- Traffic patterns by LGD.

5. LEGISLATION UPDATE

- Chris Stewart advised that there was nothing further to add to the earlier discussion under the actions.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

- **Local Government** – David Jackson (LG) confirmed that local councils had received the guidance in relation to HRC yesterday and that the expectation was that most HRCs would re-open within the next week;
- **FSA** – Maria Jennings (FSA) advised that some chain takeaways were planning to re-open, which may impact traffic patterns;
- **Infrastructure** – Katrina Godfrey (DfI) advised that the traffic count for Monday was 5% down on Friday, but still showed an increase on the previous Monday;
- **NIO** – Mark Larmour (NIO) noted that the SoS was due to meet with FM and dFM this afternoon to discuss COVID-19 related issues.

7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- Chris McNabb (EIS) advised that there was nothing further to add

8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- ACC Alan Todd noted that he had previously raised that waste disposal was not listed as a critical public service under Regulation 5 and that this was an ongoing concern with any re-opening of HRC.
- Chris Stewart (TEO) indicated that previous legal advice had suggested that a reasonable case could be made, however he was happy to review if any amendment to the Regulations was required.

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Updated Action CCG1304/02: CS to liaise with PSNI and also with Local Government regarding likely next steps by the councils.

- **Date of next meeting:** 08:30, 29 April 2020, 5th Floor Conference Room, Block B, Castle Buildings.