

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting
Monday 4 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
CC Simon Byrne – PSNI
ACC Alan Todd – PSNI
Lesley Hogg – NI Assembly
Maria Jennings – FSA
Mark Larmour – NIO
Peter May – DoJ
Stephen Reid – LG
Joan McCaffrey – LG
Chris McNabb – EIS
Denis McMahon – DAERA
Tracey Meharg – DfC
Jill Minne – NICS HR
Paddy Gallagher – NIFRS
Michael Graham - NIFRS
Richard Pengelly – DoH
Karen Pearson – TEO
Chris Stewart – TEO
NR – TEO
Andrew McCormick – TEO
Anthony Harbinson – NI Hub
Hugh Widdis – DSO
NR – NI Hub
Mark McGuicken – NI Hub
NR – NI Hub
NR – NI Hub
NR – NI Hub
NR – NI Hub
Anne Tohill – NI Hub

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

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- To date there have been 3,767 confirmed cases in NI and 381 deaths;
- The DoH dashboard went live on Friday and is to be integrated into the SitRep.

3. **ACTIONS REVIEW**

David Sterling requested updates on the following actions:

- **CCG2704/01 – Traffic data and public adherence to social distancing** – Chris Stewart (TEO) advised that a paper was being considered by the Executive at its meeting today.
- **CCG2004/01 – DoH Dashboard** – as the dashboard has gone live this action can be closed.
- **CCG1604/03 – Loss of Income for Councils** – Sue Gray (DoF) and Tracy Meharg (DfC) advised that a draft paper was being finalised and should be available within the next few days. Action ongoing. Stephen Reid (LG) clarified that there were two separate issues regarding the potential to furlough Council staff and the wider issue of loss of income by councils; therefore he requested that the action be split in two. In relation to the potential for furlough, Sue Gray advised that she would confirm whether the Finance Director letter had been communicated to councils.

New Action CCG0405/01: Sue Gray (DoF) to confirm whether the Finance Director letter has been communicated to councils

- **CCG1304/02 – Review of Regulations** – David Sterling requested an update specifically in relation to Waste Management and the re-opening of HRC. Chris Stewart (TEO) advised that he had nothing further to report.

Stephen Reid (LG) advised that SOLACE had met on Friday night. Councils were considering whether to re-open HRC but, as per ACC Alan Todd's concern raised to CCG last week, were seeking clarification on the necessity of travel to use Waste Management Services with the Regulations, prior to taking any decisions on re-opening.

ACC Alan Todd advised that he had discussions with DAERA on Friday.

Denis McMahon (DAERA) advised that he had spoken to PSNI and recommended to the Minister that the reference to PSNI be removed from the guidance.

David Sterling requested that the issue be picked up by the relevant parties outside CCG.

David Sterling updated that the “10,000 votes” event would take place on Tuesday 12th May at 10am for 1 hour. Invitations will be issued today and will seek a wide range of internal and external views. All contributions will be anonymous. This is a critical event to inform decisions on recovery and outcomes will be shared with Ministers.

4. SIT-REP UPDATE

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

- The DoH Data Dashboard has been integrated within the SitRep.
- The traffic flow data for Saturday 2 May showed a 7.5% increase on the previous week and was the highest Saturday flow since lockdown.
- In the Republic of Ireland, the Taoiseach announced a five-stage road map to re-open the country from 18th May.

David Sterling noted that slide 17 regarding attitudes revealed considerable anxiety amongst the general public about any return to normality.

5. LEGISLATION UPDATE

Chris Stewart (TEO) advised that there was no further update beyond that already provided within the actions overview.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

ACC Alan Todd (PSNI) advised that as part of an operational overview, officers were reporting that both traffic and non-traffic activity was on the increase and that the interpretation of the regulations by the public was being stretched. By way of an example, he noted that car parking on the roads outside closed car parks at beauty spots was becoming a safety issue. Pending the imminent review of the regulations, ACC suggested PSNI will need to consider their messaging and enforcement approach.

7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Chris McNabb (EIS)

8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

David Sterling advised that the Executive was meeting on Monday and Thursday this week, and therefore that the CCG meeting would move from Wednesday to Thursday and have no meeting on Friday. HOCs said he would reflect on an appropriate meeting rhythm for next week.

Date of next meeting: 08:30, Thursday 7 May 2020, 5th Floor Conference Room, Block B, Castle Buildings.