

**An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health
Office of the Minister**



Mr Robin Swann MLA,
Minister for Health
Castle Buildings,
Stormont Estate,
Belfast, BT4 3SQ

12th January 2021

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter of 9 January, regarding the ongoing engagement between our Departments in relation to the sharing of passenger locator form (PLF) data. I am aware that there has been detailed engagement on this issue between our officials in the recent months.

I share your concern about the risks posed to the entire island by international travel during the pandemic. The Irish Government is committed to strong and effective cooperation in order to manage these risks, including the opportunity for cooperation on the issue of passengers arriving into Northern Ireland and travelling onwards to Ireland.

The legal issues, regarding the sharing of PLF data, and which relate to the requirements of GDPR are understood by the officials in both of our Departments. A key issue that we must address to overcome legal issues is linked to the ability to enforce quarantine in Northern Ireland and the sharing of data with law enforcement agencies for that purpose. This is a different use of data than in the Irish context, and our concerns therefore relate to the purpose, under GDPR, for the collection of data. I understand that your officials are working on a detailed proposal on the intended use of shared data in order to enable us to properly scrutinise it with legal and data protection experts. My officials are currently waiting to receive this proposal in order to continue to progress work on this issue.

I am aware that agreed cooperation on border measures continues in relation to communicating the requirement of passengers, who are travelling onwards to Northern Ireland, to complete the passenger locator form both at Dublin Airport and Dublin Port. I understand our officials are also exploring additional practical forms of assistance that may be able to be implemented towards this effort, such as those we employed on your behalf regarding passengers arriving from Denmark.

I can assure you of our continuing cooperation in relation to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data	Personal Data
Stephen Donnelly T.D. Minister for Health	