

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		FM / dFM meeting with HOCS	
DATE:	16 November 2021	NOTE WRITTEN BY:	
		NR	
VENUE:	Hybrid – Parliament Buildings and Zoom		FM Advisers: Richard Bullick, Philip Weir dFM Advisers: Dara O'Hagan, Stephen McGlade
LIST OF ATTENDEES: First Minister (PB) deputy First Minister (Zoom) Richard Bullick, Special Adviser FM (Zoom) Philip Weir. Special Adviser FM (PB) Dara O'Hagan, Special Adviser dFM (Zoom) Stephen McGlade, Special Adviser dFM (PB) Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM (Zoom) <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;">NR</div> <div style="margin-left: 5px;">PS FM (PB)</div> </div> Donal Moran, PPS Dfm (Zoom) Jayne Brady, HOCS (PB) <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;">NR</div> <div style="margin-left: 5px;">HOCS Office (PB)</div> </div> <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">Denis McMahon, TEO Permanent Secretary</div> Karen Pearson, TEO			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>FM noted that he had proposed this meeting to get HOCS advice re: COVID Passports and the way to bring forward the 2 Executive papers in a procedural way at the Executive meeting tomorrow. dFM noted if DoH would bring forward an Executive paper that would short circuit the situation.</p> <p>HOCS updated that she had produced a draft letter to DoH but that she now understood that the Minister of Health was willing to bring forward a paper along with the R-paper. Papers should be available at 3.30pm today, in advance of a CMO CSA call later. Would suggest removing the ECT paper as it would confuse the issue. Feedback on hospital pressures.</p> <p>dFM indicated that she was content for MoH to bring forward a paper and remove the ECT paper.</p>	

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	<p>In response to a query from RB regarding the content of the DoH paper, HOCS indicated that she understood it was based on the ECT and included a number of sectors, potentially around the end of November.</p> <p>RB queried whether there had been any engagement with sectors.</p> <p>dFM queried whether the MoH paper included a phased approach.</p> <p>HOCS indicated that she understood that all sectors were being considered.</p> <p>FM indicated that his preference was always for MoH to bring forward proposals. The ECT paper had gaps and I had queries. Something as significant as this needs longer to consider.</p> <p>dFM asked for an update on regulations.</p> <p>KP provided an update on her meeting with DoH. Case numbers and hospital pressures have changed DoH view. MoH is seeking a decision tomorrow, however the paper may not be ready until the early evening as DoH are discussing scope and sectors.</p> <p>FM and dFM both indicated that they needed to see the paper.</p> <p>KP noted that the Annex to the R paper outlines the scientific rationale.</p> <p>FM indicated that he wanted a legal opinion from the Attorney General on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Rights• Public Sector• Enforcement• Vaccine Period• Cost analysis• Economic impact• Older people and IT• Assembly vote before regulations take effect <p>FM also expressed that he had an extensive list of questions and that he would not be bounced into a decision tomorrow.</p> <p>dFM noted that MoH was seeking a decision tomorrow and indicated that she would clear an Executive paper for a decision tomorrow.</p> <p>KP noted that DoH were working on Equality Impact and Human Rights issues. On economic issues she understood that Hospitality's view was that it would be easier if certification was mandatory.</p>
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	<p>FM asked if there had been any assessment of the effectiveness of certification in countries which had introduced these schemes?</p> <p>FM asked at what point would boosters be necessary? dFM noted that boosters would not be a silver bullet and that wider tools should be considered e.g. standing up Nightingale Hospitals or strengthening the work from home message.</p> <p>HOCS noted that the winter plan would widen out discussion. KP stated that the vires are to prevent transmission of Covid.</p> <p>HOCS referred to the Inter-Governmental Review and noted that Michael Gove's office had been in contact. Scotland and Wales have accepted principles. NI to consider whether we want to be involved in announcement this Friday at BIC.</p>
ACTION POINTS:	<p>Ministers to consider IGR and whether they wish to be involved in announcement at BIC.</p>