

**NOTE OF A TELECONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY OF STATE RT. HON
BRANDON LEWIS MP 16 DECEMBER 2020**

Present

First Minister (FM)

Secretary of State (SoS)

Covid-19

1. In response to a query from SOS, FM confirmed that the Minister for Health intends to bring a paper to the Executive tomorrow (17 December) on measures to manage the pandemic. **FM reported concern about the potential for leaks.**
2. FM noted the announcements in Wales and Scotland, and expressed concern that consistent communication and messaging may be more difficult if policy positions were to diverge.

NEW DECADE NEW APPROACH (NDNA)

3. **SOS indicated that the postponed implementation review meeting would be rescheduled soon. He stated that he would be writing to FM and the deputy First Minister shortly, with a proposed allocation of the £40m identified in NDNA for 'the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland', on which there is now greater clarity.**

Brexit

4. **FM asked for clarity on pets. SOS explained that, whilst the treatment of racehorses is a separate matter, he understood that the matter had been resolved in respect of cats, dogs and ferrets.**
5. **Looking ahead to the meeting of the Joint Committee tomorrow, SOS noted the somewhat more positive signals from the EU Commission, but cautioned that the matter of fishing rights remained very difficult.**
6. **It was noted that the outstanding issue regarding the education Erasmus scheme had been resolved.**

Personal Data

CHRIS STEWART