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**From:** Sterling, David [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=18F0B2409B1C4EEAA6ED1D5573DBDBEE-DAVID STERLING 001]  
**Sent:** 15/03/2020 12:33:01  
**To:** Stewart, Chris (TEO) [chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]  
**CC:** McCormick, Andrew (TEO) [andrew.mccormick@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; Pearson, Karen [Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; McNabb, Chris [chris.mcNabb@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; TEO HOCS (DS) [hocs@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; **NR** @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Covid contingency planning

Chris

I've agreed with Andrew that we should re-deploy part of the Brexit team led by Gail to assist with the planning and coordination of the departmental response to the Covid crisis. This will be for a limited time only (facilitated by a Covid-related slowing down of the Brexit negotiations rhythm) and should probably follow a "task and finish" approach. It will allow for earlier establishment of the Hub which we are under increasing pressure to mobilise, particularly to reduce the pressure on DoH.

Can you discuss this with Karen in the morning to agree how best to manage this. Can you also include Chris in the conversation. It is clear from our discussion with Philp Weir and Stephen McGlade that ministers will be pressing for greater coordination of our comms with an expectation that we will increasingly be moving towards daily bulletins issuing from the Executive rather than from individual departments.

I may mention this at the Executive meeting at 09.30 in the morning. If it suited we could use the 11.00 am stocktake meeting for these discussions.

David