

Message

From: Pearson, Karen [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=018ED108562F4AE698822FCCE2139299-KAREN PEARSON TEMP]
Sent: 14/09/2020 7:49:03 AM
To: McCormick, Andrew (TEO) [andrew.mccormick@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: FW: Issues

I mentioned last night that Richard asked for my thoughts. This is what I've said.

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From: Pearson, Karen <Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Monday, 14 Sep 2020, 7:48 am
To: Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: Issues

Morning

You asked me to jot down my thoughts on risks to best decision making.

Background for me is that my priorities ought to be Exit Operational Readiness and COVID Recovery. I have resources for Exit and a bid is in for Recovery staff (but no money at present).

Majority of my time is in the space between the initial response and recovery, with restrictions an ongoing focus. With the current positive test numbers, restrictions and local interventions could require more resource for both depts.

I think we quickly need a local restrictions strategy and menu of policy choices, with depts fully involved at senior level, so we would know what to offer the Executive in a range of scenarios. Last week, of necessity, Ministers had to accept the level of risk, accept the concept of local restrictions and agree an action. We need to break this down for them into a cross dept concept of operations so the muscle memory kicks in when they are presented with the next problem and proposed solutions. I think we need that in place for end of sept. No doubt there is learning from JBC.

The strategic context for this is winter planning which we are used to but it won't have been on Ministers' radars for the past three years. They will (politics aside) have Exit Operational challenges to lead too. We may need to present them with an autumn/winter overview so they understand the full scale of the challenge.

I think we both need resource injections for policy, planning, drafting and overall coordination .

Irrelevant & Sensitive

. On 1 October, i have limited resources for recovery and just myself on everything else, with Eu readiness an increasing priority. It is very unlikely that I can do many of the tasks I do now, and Ministers are wanting more of my time spent on recovery.

In summary, We need more people now to address the decision making risk, senior engagement across depts as they will face challenges in a range of local scenarios if we want a more detailed approach to local restrictions. We need to align that with all aspects of winter preparedness. And I need time and resources for recovery work.

Karen

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