

Message

From: TEO HOCS (DS) [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=286B5F4D742442098CBED44F7B75FAAC-TEO HOCS (DS) TEO-]
Sent: 21/03/2020 17:44:17
To: Stewart, Chris (TEO) [chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; Harbinson, Anthony [Anthony.Harbinson@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk]; Pearson, Karen [karen.pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]
CC: Sterling, David [david.sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; [redacted] NR [redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; [redacted] NR [redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: Query

Has PSNI (or anyone else) made any assessment of the extent to which there might be non-compliance with a “lockdown”?

I’m interpreting a lockdown as something that would involve closure of everything bar medicines, hygiene products and food shops plus a direction that people are not to leave their homes unless they are key workers or buying these items.

My sense, and it is no more than that, is that the main problem would be ignorance of the rules (which could be addressed by good public comms) rather than deliberate defiance (which might require law enforcement). I also hope there would be a strong element of self-policing such as we have seen increasingly in the media (MS and social) about people gathering in bars or elsewhere. I exclude hoarding from this where it seems no amount of preaching to people’s better nature will stop hoarding until everyone feels they have enough stuff to weather the storm.

My guess is PSNI would want to take a light touch to any enforcement obligations (to avoid making a bad situation worse) but I’d be interested to know what work they have done on this.

David

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From: Stewart, Chris (TEO) <chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Saturday, 21 Mar 2020, 16:03
To: Harbinson, Anthony <Anthony.Harbinson@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>, Pearson, Karen <Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: Sterling, David <David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, [redacted] NR [redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; [redacted] NR [redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Query

Colleagues

To be aware.

C

From: Stewart, Chris (TEO)
Sent: 21 March 2020 14:38
To: McGlade, Stephen <dfmspad2@executiveoffice.info>

Cc: [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Query

Stephen

As of today, we don't have that clarity – I haven't seen anything from COBRA yet on what a lockdown would look like. On the assumption that it would be not much more than 'medicines, hygiene products and food' I suspect that enforcement may be a greater problem than definition itself – e.g the supermarket can open but the alcohol section needs to be closed off; or the off-licence suddenly offers a few tins of beans and claims to be a grocery store.

I'm aware that PSNI has been voicing concerns about a number of aspects of the Covid response, and I'm happy to chat about that at any time. The PSNI concern that I would share is that of enforcement – particularly if we followed the French example of a curfew type approach.

The usual issue of all-island consistency will become even sharper as we move up the scale of response – no point shutting the off-licence in Belcoo if the branch in Blacklion stays open.

C

From: McGlade, Stephen

Sent: 21 March 2020 13:16

To: Stewart, Chris (TEO) <chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: Query

Chris,

As we move now to closing pubs, restaurants etc and in the direction of shutdown of services, have clarity on what 'essential services' are so when we reach that point we know what's open, and what's not? I imagine that pharmacies will open, but perhaps general grocery stores may be open for certain periods if the day? These are answers we need so ministers can give certainty to communities and business owners.

Many thanks

Stephen

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