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**From:** TEO HOCS (DS) [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=286B5F4D742442098CBED44F7B75FAAC-TEO HOCS (DS) TEO-]  
**Sent:** 06/05/2020 22:12:50  
**To:** Goodfellow, Mark [mark.goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]  
**CC:** Griffith, Deirdre [deirdre.griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; NR @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Mark

I take it it will do in the morning? Though there's not much we could add to what I've set out below.

David

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** Goodfellow, Mark <[Mark.Goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 06 May 2020, 21:46  
**To:** TEO HOCS (DS) <[HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Griffith, Deirdre <[Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>; NR @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Review of COVID-19 regulations

David,

See FM comments below. Might be helpful if you/Chris spoke directly with FM?

Mark

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**From:** First Minister <fm@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 6 May 2020 21:34  
**To:** "Goodfellow, Mark" <Mark.Goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>; "Weir, Philip" <philip.weir@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** "Griffith, Deirdre" <Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>; NR @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Mark,

I have to say I am somewhat taken aback at the fact that none of the issues raised have been addressed by Health. Having raised these issues some time ago I don't think it is unreasonable to expect some clarity in relations to them. I asked quite specific issues around churches on a sliding scale a number of days ago and want them answered before tomorrow's Executive.

Thank you,

AF

**From:** Goodfellow, Mark  
**Sent:** 06 May 2020 20:23  
**To:** Weir, Philip <philip.weir@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** First Minister <fm@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>; Griffith, Deirdre <Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>; **NR**  
**NR** @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Philip,

As discussed I asked David to clarify in relation to collation of lists of issues for potential relaxation consideration and the process culminating in those issues not being reflected in the DoH paper on Regs Review.

See David's reply below.

Mark

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**From:** "TEO HOCS (DS)" <[HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 6 May 2020 20:06  
**To:** "Goodfellow, Mark" <[Mark.Goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** "Griffith, Deirdre" <[Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Deirdre.Griffith@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>; **NR**  
**NR** @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk; **NR** @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk; "Morrow, Carol" <[Carol.Morrow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Carol.Morrow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Mark

Re your question on the Health Regs review, I attach the email which Chris Stewart sent to DoH last Thursday evening.

You will recall that for the previous review Chris had offered to assist DoH with the conduct of the review (which was accepted). We offered again but on this occasion our assistance was not sought.

We asked for sight of the paper in draft but did not see anything until the draft Executive paper you received was circulated this evening.

David

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**From:** Stewart, Chris (TEO)  
**Sent:** 30 April 2020 20:03  
**To:** Redmond, Liz <[Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Stewart, Chris (TEO) <[chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; **NR** @health-ni.gsi.gov.uk; May, Peter <[peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>; McMahon, Nigel <[Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Sterling, David <[David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>; **NR** @executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk; Harbinson, Anthony <[Anthony.Harbinson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Anthony.Harbinson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>; Pearson, Karen <[Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>; **NR** @executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk; Widdis, Hugh <[Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gov.uk)>; McPolin, Laura <[Laura.McPolin@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.McPolin@finance-ni.gov.uk)>; **NR**  
**NR** @finance-ni.gov.uk; **NR** @finance-ni.gov.uk; **NR**

NR

@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Liz

I attach the table which includes suggestions from TEO Ministers, DfE, and DFP. Other Departments submitted nil returns, or did not respond. In addition, you have already seen Peter's response on behalf of DoJ, which refers to the scope for increasing the provision of certain public services that are not within the scope of the Regulations, but which have been significantly curtailed in response to the 'stay at home' message.

I have included one or two matters that were not agreed when the Executive last considered the Regulations (churches, garden centres), on the basis that they have been raised again by Ministers. I have not included the proposal to allow providers of holiday accommodation to take advance bookings (at their own risk). This has not been raised again, although I think it has the scope to make a modest contribution to the liquidity of businesses in the tourism sector, and might even be considered for other sectors.

There are a few other matters that you may wish to consider for the paper (forgive me if these are already in hand). Firstly there is a range of minor and technical amendments in English, Scottish and Welsh Regulations that should be considered here.

Secondly, I think we should put beyond doubt the ability of livestock markets to open, by means of a clarifying amendment.

Thirdly, I understand that PSNI has questioned the lawfulness of travelling to access a waste recycling centre. Legal advisers have stated that an argument can be made that such centres are a 'critical service' (travel to which is a reasonable excuse). It may be worth putting the matter beyond doubt by adding to the list of critical services, something along the lines of : 'critical services provided by a district council or government department.'

There are two other matters that I would urge you to consider including in the paper. PSNI colleagues consider that the range of marginal changes to the Regulations that have already been made (or which are contemplated) will make enforcement increasingly more complex, difficult, and vulnerable to gaming. This has implications for the timing of the designation of district councils for enforcement to spread the load (which the Executive decided to do in principle last week). More fundamentally, the cumulative effect of minor relaxations has the potential to de-power enforcement, just at the point when we need the public to patiently maintain compliance (and long before any planned stepping down of enforcement). It may be prudent to advise Ministers that minor relaxations that are individually beneficial, may have unintended cumulative consequences.

Chris

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**From:** Redmond, Liz [<mailto:Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 29 April 2020 18:20

**To:** Stewart, Chris (TEO) <[chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>

NR

NR

<[NR@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NR@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; May, Peter <[peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>; McMahon, Nigel

<[Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** NR <[NR@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NR@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Chris,

Yes a tabulation of these contributions would be extremely helpful, thank you. We could then utilise this list in the framework for risk assessment that we are developing

INQ000317347\_0003



Liz

Liz Redmond  
Director of Population Health  
Tel: [redacted] I&S

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**From:** Stewart, Chris (TEO) [<mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 29 April 2020 6:04 PM  
**To:** Redmond, Liz <[Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Stewart, Chris (TEO) <[chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; [redacted] NR <[\[redacted\]@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; May, Peter <[peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>; McMahon, Nigel <[Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] NR <[\[redacted\]@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Liz

Thank you. At today's Executive meeting I remarked that the list of suggestions in response to Peter's note is surprisingly long. That prompted Minister Swann to suggest that we ought to triage the list before asking DoH colleagues to incorporate it in the review paper. I think that might be problematic for two reasons. Firstly, it would be difficult for any of us as officials to triage out suggestions that may have come with ministerial imprimatur (much as we might like to). Secondly, the key criterion for assessing any suggestion will surely be the DoH view of the risk that it might pose in terms of disease transmission.

Would it be helpful if I were to draw together the various Departmental contributions into a table or summary for incorporation in your paper, (with the addition of the DoH assessment of each)?

Chris

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**From:** Redmond, Liz [<mailto:Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 29 April 2020 17:35  
**To:** Stewart, Chris (TEO) <[chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; [redacted] NR <[\[redacted\]@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; May, Peter <[peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>; McMahon, Nigel <[Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Chris,

We are preparing a paper for next Wednesday's Executive meeting, regarding the second review of regulations which is due by 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Liz

Liz Redmond  
Director of Population Health  
Tel: [redacted] I&S

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**From:** Stewart, Chris (TEO) [<mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 29 April 2020 5:24 PM  
**To:** May, Peter <[peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:peter.may@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk)>; Godfrey, Katrina (DfI – Perm Sec) <[Katrina.Godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Katrina.Godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Baker, Derek <[Derek.Baker@education-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Derek.Baker@education-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Brennan, Mike <[Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>

[ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; McMahon, Denis <[Denis.McMahon@daera-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Denis.McMahon@daera-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Gray, Sue (DoF) <[Sue.Gray@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.Gray@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Meharg, Tracy <[Tracy.Meharg@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tracy.Meharg@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>

Cc: 'McMahon, Nigel' <[Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; 'liz.redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk' <[liz.redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Pengelly, Richard <[Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Sterling, David <[David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk; NIHUB Chief of Staff <[COS@NIHUB.gov.uk](mailto:COS@NIHUB.gov.uk)>; Pearson, Karen <[Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Stewart, Chris (TEO) <[chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; 'Widdis, Hugh' <[Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; King, Brenda <[Brenda.King@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Brenda.King@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; McCormick, Andrew (TEO) <[Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; 'colum.boyle@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk' <[colum.boyle@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:colum.boyle@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk)> NR  
NR @finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk; NR @executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Review of COVID-19 regulations

Colleagues

Further to this, at today's Executive meeting Ministers indicated that they may wish to focus on the review early next week. Could I ask for any further responses to Peter's commissioning note to be with us by tomorrow lunchtime please.

Chris

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**From:** May, Peter [<mailto:Peter.May@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 23 April 2020 16:37

**To:** Godfrey, Katrina (DfI – Perm Sec) <[Katrina.Godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Katrina.Godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Baker, Derek <[Derek.Baker@education-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Derek.Baker@education-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Brennan, Mike <[Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; McMahon, Denis <[Denis.McMahon@daera-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Denis.McMahon@daera-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Gray, Sue (DoF) <[Sue.Gray@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Sue.Gray@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Meharg, Tracy <[Tracy.Meharg@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tracy.Meharg@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>

Cc: 'McMahon, Nigel' <[Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; 'liz.redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk' <[liz.redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.redmond@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Pengelly, Richard <[Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Sterling, David <[David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:David.Sterling@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk; NIHUB Chief of Staff <[COS@NIHUB.gov.uk](mailto:COS@NIHUB.gov.uk)>; Pearson, Karen <[Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; Stewart, Chris (TEO) <[chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; 'Widdis, Hugh' <[Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Hugh.Widdis@finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; King, Brenda <[Brenda.King@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Brenda.King@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; McCormick, Andrew (TEO) <[Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk)>; 'colum.boyle@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk' <[colum.boyle@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:colum.boyle@communities-ni.gsi.gov.uk)> NR  
NR @finance-ni.gsi.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Review of COVID-19 regulations

Colleagues

In preparation for the next review of the COVID-19 public health regulations, colleagues from DoH, TEO and DSO and I met to discuss the best process to be followed. We all recognised that while these are DoH regulations, there is a need to take engage Departments because of the scale of the impact.

The next review (in w/c 4May) will cover

- i) Public health analysis re COVID-19 trajectory etc;
- ii) Health analysis of wider health impacts of restrictions;
- iii) List of potential moves to relax restrictions;
- iv) A short summary showing how each move would score in health, societal and economic terms (whilst being clear that health evidence carries the most weight).

It would be very helpful to have inputs from Departments in relation to iii) above to help inform the Executive. Specifically this is to draw out any areas where the restrictions are having a significant impact in your sphere of interest and where you believe change would have substantial societal or economic benefits. We are writing round to

you rather than going out through the hub or equivalent to keep this a tight and proportionate exercise. It is important not to create an impression that relaxation at the next review is inevitable.

The objective is to develop a list of potential relaxations and for them to be assessed against the three pillars of the strategy – health, economic and societal. The health assessment will remain critical but one of the potential benefits is that if two options were closely matched in health outcome terms but one had much greater economic or societal impact that could be taken into account by the Executive.

At the point where the health crisis begins to reduce in severity, it is likely that the other factors will become more influential in decision making terms.

For the purpose of this review it would be really helpful if you could let Nigel McMahon and Chris Stewart have any issues you are aware of in your own areas (including in your sectors) where there would both be a major positive impact from relaxation **and** a realistic prospect of no or limited negative health impact (eg because social distancing could be preserved). Responses sought by lunchtime Tues 28 April please.

If anyone has any questions, perhaps we could pick them up at PSS.

Peter

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