

From the Office of the Minister
Diane Dodds MLA



From: Diane Dodds MLA
Minister for the Economy

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To: Deirdre Hargey MLA
Minister for Communities

Conor Murphy MLA
Minister of Finance

Coordination on Reopening Sectors of the Economy

All Departments will play an important role in reopening parts of the economy, and in many cases public services will also be intertwined with the functioning of markets. So it is important to be strategic, coordinated and collaborative at these critical times.

My Department is keen to understand the plans of other departments to coordinate reopening of the economy. This is important to help us to gauge the macroeconomic environment going forward and the potential for any recovery to be successful.

One of those areas of interest is the wider housing market where both your Departments will play a role, with the Department for Communities having a major policy stake in housing and the Department of Finance delivering services that are needed for the market to function - in terms of Land Registry, which is the responsibility of Land & Property Services (LPS). As I understand the Department for Communities is already taking forward work in this area.

A second area I would like to highlight is the management of public spaces in our town and city centres, and these are likely to be a real challenge for successfully reopening society and the economy. As I understand it, the Department for Communities intends to take a leading role in this task. Not only is this commendable, but it is also crucial as there are so many areas of business and society that will rely on the functioning of, particularly high footfall, public spaces. This work can help us understand the practicalities around opening businesses located with town and city centres, and offer some clarity to the Businesses and Local Councils that depend on these public spaces as the focal point of local commerce in their areas.

I am copying this memo to Executive Colleagues, the Attorney General, Departmental Solicitor and to First Legislative Counsel.

Yours sincerely,

PD

DIANE DODDS MLA
Minister for the Economy