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**From:** McBride, Michael [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9999965]  
**Sent:** 24/06/2020 20:48:11  
**To:** Young, Ian (Prof.) [ian.young2@health-ni.gov.uk]; Pearson, Karen [karen.pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** outdoor gatherings

Karen,

I would not be supportive of a move to 100 people outside at this time give changes to date, those proposed, challenges around messaging and particular given the period ahead.

Michael

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**From:** Young, Ian (Prof.) <[Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 24 Jun 2020, 8:43 pm  
**To:** Pearson, Karen <[Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** McBride, Michael <[Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** outdoor gatherings

Karen

So long as a gathering is outdoors and social distancing is maintained at 2m the risk associated with 100 would not be excessive in my opinion.

One of the reasons I remain nervous about 1m is that in practice I think people will interpret that as meaning "not touching". So 100 associated with 1m would carry additional risk, even outdoors. This along with all of the other relaxations which are likely to be approved means that total risk would be very difficult to estimate. All I can promise is that we will recognise any significant increase in the epidemic at an early stage when there will be an opportunity to address it.

Best wishes

Ian

**Chief Scientific Advisor**  
**Director of Research for Health and Social Care**  
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