

Northern  
Ireland  
Office

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**READOUT | SECRETARY OF STATE, FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER, 15 May**

1 message

**SOS Lewis** <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk>

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To: PSI <psi@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>, Holly Clark <holly.clark@nio.gov.uk>, Rebecca Nugent <rebecca.nugent@nio.gov.uk>, Covid 19 <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>, Stephen Rusk <stephen.rusk@nio.gov.uk>

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**READOUT | SECRETARY OF STATE, FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**Attendees:

Secretary of State

First Minister

Deputy First Minister

Oliver Legard, SpAD

Ciarán Hayes, PPS

Mark Larmour, NIO official

**Secretary of State** opened the discussion by asking how the NI roadmap had landed in NI.

**First Minister and deputy First Minister** both said that it had been positive and they hoped to move ahead to step 1 shortly.

**Secretary of State** said it is natural for the devolved administrations to move at different paces if the science/data suggests. He said that he was supportive of the Executive's plan and thought that it was complementary with the wider UK approach.

**Deputy First Minister** said that they were fighting battles everyday in the press, but it had been a good week.

**Secretary of State** spoke about the pressure on the Executive to look at setting the dates. He said that although the UK Government had been upfront about the dates, NI may get to move quicker - if the science and data supports such an approach. He said that he thought the Executive plan was a good example of devolution in action.

He said that with 5 different parties in the Executive there will be things we disagree on - so he had been impressed with how everyone has taken a sensitive approach and got things done on COVID-19

**First Minister** updated on a chat that they had had with the Taoiseach. She said that Ireland would be moving into stage 1 on Monday. She raised the outstanding issue on quarantine with Ireland & the CTA. She said they should discuss this at Quad.

**Deputy First Minister** agreed that it was politically sensitive.

**Secretary of State** outlined the current discussions on exemptions and said that they could deal with any further issues in the meetings next week.

**First Minister** finally raised the issues with people from NI accessing the self-employed scheme.

**Secretary of State** outlined what HMRC is doing to resolve this issue to ensure that everyone who is entitled to claim can do so. He assured that there was a helpline in place and that nobody will lose out. He said that Jesse Norman and HMT were on this.

**Secretary of State** finished by looking ahead to the Quad and the CTA issue next week.

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