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**Cc:** SpAds PS <spads.ps@nio.gov.uk>, PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, Covid 19 <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>, Covid Healthcare <covid-healthcare@nio.gov.uk>, PSI <psi@nio.gov.uk>, David Holmes <david.holmes@nio.gov.uk>, Rebecca Nugent <rebecca.nugent@nio.gov.uk>, "Strategy, Future Partnerships and Negotiation" <sfpn@nio.gov.uk>, Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Fwd: CDL/Coveney call

**Date:** Fri, 24 Apr 2020 18:08:50 +0100

All,

To see below a readout of the conversation between CDL and Simon Coveney today, which covered Covid-19, EU Exit, and Government formation in Ireland. I will share with SoS and SpAds.

Best,

NR

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** PS Michael Gove Mailbox <psmichaelgove@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

**Date:** Fri, 24 Apr 2020 at 15:31

**Subject:** CDL/Coveney call

**To:** NR (Sensitive) NR @fco.gov.uk>

**Cc:** NR (Sensitive) NR @fco.gov.uk>, NR (Sensitive)

NR @fco.gov.uk> NR @no10.gov.uk> NR @no10.gov.uk>, David Frost <DFrost@no10.gov.uk> NR @no10.gov.uk>, Matthew Taylor <MTaylor@no10.gov.uk>, Lindsay Appleby <lappleby@no10.gov.uk>, NR

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NR @cabinetoffice.gov.uk> NR @cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, David

Quarrey <david.quarrey@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, CDL Submissions <cdl-submissions@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, Irrelevant & Sensitive @fco.gov.uk>,

NR (Sensitive) NR @fco.gov.uk>, Bates, Jenny - FCO (OFF-SEN) <Jenny.Bates@fco.gov.uk>, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk>

NR

CDL spoke to Simon Coveney, Irish Tanaiste, this morning. I believe you and NR were on the line too.

Coveney highlighted the tensions on the island of Ireland of not coordinating our responses as we went into lockdown. With two different jurisdictions each with different rates of infection and different appropriate responses, there was a challenge in preventing cross-contamination across the N/S border. CDL emphasised our respect for the autonomy of the DAs but our belief that it was easiest to move in tandem. The same held N/S. He suggested that as we unwind restrictions, we should maintain a closer dialogue than was possible as we went into lockdown.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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Irrelevant & Sensitive

On 1, CDL said that our focus had understandably been on maintaining unimpeded flow of goods between NI and GB (eg PPE) in the context of fewer flights but would pass on Irish concerns to the Specialised Committee team. The UK wanted to make as much progress in the wider negotiations as quickly as possible and appreciated the negative effects of uncertainty for people on the island of Ireland

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

NR

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Private Office: The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the  
Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Cabinet Office

PPS

NR

I&S

DPPS

I&S

NR

I&S

NR

I&S

NR

I&S

E: [psmichaelgove@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:psmichaelgove@cabinetoffice.gov.uk)

*Additional CDL support for COVID-19*

NR

I&S



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