

FIRST MINISTER, DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER - 7 MAY

STEER

Part of your regular catch up with the FM and dFM - the focus this week will be lockdown easements, as well as ongoing work to coordinate track and trace with Ireland (Robin Swann recently commended publicly that he favours a single all-Island app).

They are likely to also want to discuss the UK's public health border measures - and to understand what their role is, and hear from you that they'll have an opportunity to shape the detail of the policy. They are aware of the proposal from the previous CDL discussion but have not seen the detail and will not have taken an active decision yet to support the recommendations.

They will have representatives at CDL's 1pm MIG where the approach and papers are being shared with the DAs. Robin Walker will attend from NIO.

You may want to update them from Cabinet and ask them for any emerging details/decisions from their Executive meeting this morning.

SPEAKING POINTS

Update on process for next week and COBR and lockdown easements

- I expect the PM to make an announcement on Sunday on the review of lockdown measures and to set out for the first time for citizens and businesses how we will move out of the current phase of response.
- You will be aware of Scottish Government's published framework for Covid-19 decision making, as well as the Irish Government's 'Roadmap for re-opening society and business'.
- At this point we are currently reviewing the lockdown easements and decisions are still being made - you will have hopefully seen the papers or been briefed, but this is being discussed at the GPS MIG now;
- Similarly, you have been considering an approach in Northern Ireland and would be keen to hear any emerging details from the Executive meeting today [scheduled for 10:30].
- If possible, I'd welcome an update on current thinking and planned announcements. As we have discussed previously, sequencing of messaging to ensure clear and coordinated messages is important to maintain public confidence in messages.

Track and trace

- Tools such as the Trace and Trace app will be core parts of the contact tracing strategy and will enable an easing of lockdown measures.
- Ensuring the app is fit for purpose in Northern Ireland, both as a means of supporting policy and delivering on the ground is important, noting in particular cross-border movements.
- Interoperability with the technology in Ireland and data protection will be key.
- Officials from Northern Ireland, DHSC and Ireland met this week to discuss respective apps. Ireland is keen to ensure their approach serves the whole island of Ireland. I'm interested in whether use by Ireland of the NHSX app could be an option - I'd welcome your thoughts? I am keen to encourage an approach that works best for Northern Ireland.

UK public health border measures

- You've hopefully heard that we are now likely to move ahead for measures to mandate individuals who arrive from overseas to self isolate for 14 days give an address;
- I've made the point strongly that CTA journeys and hauliers should be exempt from that, so that we don't inadvertently capture people using those Dublin-Hollyhead routes and ensure the measures don't capture those who we don't want to be restricting - that has been agreed;
- I understand the PM is keen to say something about this on Sunday, and obviously we are keen to see a four nations approach to this and are conscious that regulations would need to be made in all the DAs to implement the measures - we are conscious you've not had long with the detail, and want to work closely with you and your teams on the detail going forward;
- But I would really appreciate your help on getting the proposal agreed in principle with the Executive, obviously noting we will need to take discussions forward on the detail in the coming days and weeks;

Quad

- I'm keen we get another Quad meeting in - would next Thursday work for you? My team will be in touch to confirm with your diary teams.

Background on border measures