

Northern
Ireland
Office

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

READOUT | Secretary of State, First Minister, deputy First Minister - 7 May

1 message

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

7 May 2020 at 13:02

To: PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, SpAds PS <spads.ps@nio.gov.uk>, Min Walker <min.walker@nio.gov.uk>, Covid 19 <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, Holly Clark <holly.clark@nio.gov.uk>, PSI <psi@nio.gov.uk>, Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>, Rebecca Nugent <rebecca.nugent@nio.gov.uk>

READOUT | SECRETARY OF STATE, FIRST MINISTER, DEPUTY FIRST MINISTERAttendees:

Secretary of State
First Minister
deputy First Minister
Ciarán Hayes, NIO
Mark Larmour, NIO
Oliver Legard, NIO SpAd
Deirdre Griffith, NIE
Carol Morrow, NIE
Anthony Harbinson, NIE

Secretary of State began by asking the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Executive meeting.

First Minister and deputy First Minister both said that the meeting had come to a positive conclusion.

Secretary of State updated the First and deputy First Minister on his expectations that the PM would make an announcement on Sunday. He also confirmed that the Prime Minister would be seeking to speak with them this afternoon.

He said that, as he had made clear during his morning media round, the UK Government would not be seeking to completely lift the current restrictions from Monday. He said that the medical and scientific advice does not yet support such an approach. He made the point that, from his recent discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive, they seemed to be aligned with this approach.

He said that the UK Government would look ahead towards the lifting of restrictions, but they would make clear that any approach will be under constant review to monitor the pressure being placed on the curve and on the R number. He also said that he recognised that nuances may be required in approaches across the UK.

Finally, he outlined the discussions ongoing on the UK's public health border measures that the NI Executive is currently involved in. He said that when agreed the UK Government and NI Executive should quickly work together to ensure that the measures can be applied on a UK-wide basis. He said that the UK Government would also look to speak with Irish Government regarding the announcement on the border measures.

First Minister gave a short update on the current situation in Northern Ireland and said that the R number was at 0.8-0.9 and therefore their approach must take account of this.

All agreed that caution was still required and that they would continue discussions over the next week. They agreed that they should look to have another meeting between the three of them and the Tánaiste next week.

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NIO Private Office

1 Horse Guards Road, London

Stormont House, Belfast

Ciarán Hayes (PPS)

NR

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sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk

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