

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

To: [redacted] NR [redacted]@nio.gov.uk>

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Subject: READOUT | Briefing for Robin Swann call

Date: Thu, 23 Apr 2020 13:01:02 +0100

Rough readout below, will send round a full one later.

[redacted] NR

BL: how are things

RS: relatively content with testing and PPE. Having challenges with actually getting people in to test rather than capacity issues now.

BL: Same. I did the GB media round this morning. Gap between capacity and the number of people testing was picked up on.

RS: We completed 1112 tests yesterday equating 600 people. Just been at the Health Committee in NI who are struggling to get comprehend front line staff being tested multiple times a day

[redacted] Irrelevant & Sensitive [redacted]

BL reiterated the value of these and said he'd been speaking with the Health Sec who was clear there would have been real problems on Sunday without. He said he had been giving praise in GB media for the gowns and the UK/NI cooperation. He checked in on NI join up with DHSC on PPE.

RS said that although the gowns were not a lot in UK terms amount wise, NI did what we could. He said he felt PPE cooperation working well with DHSC and across UK, he flagged the 4 health ministers have a zoom call every Monday morning

RS highlighted the potential for problems on easing social distancing and the split between people in Exec is 40% wanting to follow London and 40% Dublin, with the rest in the middle (incl. himself) trying to chart a path for NI

BL said no doubt that there will be differences, must use quad etc to manage

[redacted] Irrelevant & Sensitive [redacted]

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RS outlined the MACA situation and again said it was good no one was talking about it.

BL thanked him for the catch up and looked ahead to tomorrow's meeting with the FM, dFM and the Quad next week.

On Thu, 23 Apr 2020 at 12:00, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks all - have locked this and sent on SoS

NR

On Thu, 23 Apr 2020 at 10:27, Julie Miller <julie.miller@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

NR

NR

I have updated the point on care homes as Robin S has been clear over the past few days that they have mitigated risks around this, and added a brief line on welcoming the clarity on additional deaths. Grateful for views.

Kind regards

NR

NR

Covid-19 Team (Health)

Northern Ireland Office

I&S

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Mental Health First Aider

On Thu, 23 Apr 2020 at 10:13, NR <NR@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

The additional deaths grabbed headlines but not sure there is much to discuss - though we could add something into the background?

I think the key thing on care homes in the meeting is just asking him how it's going which the briefing does so happy to add a line but I think its ok as it is

My only other potential addition is whether we need to flag up the transport announcements - but will take a steer from covid economy

On Thu, 23 Apr 2020 at 10:08, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Just a final check on this - is there anything further that we should flag with SoS prior to this mtg?

Care homes and the additional death numbers seemed to be the media stories yesterday - we've got a Q in there on care homes, do we need to add anything on additional deaths?

NR

On Wed, 22 Apr 2020 at 10:31, NR <NR@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Cheers NR - I think we will probably want to reflect the Irish travel changes so probably will update a bit once we have a bit more clarity on them today

NR

On Wed, 22 Apr 2020 at 10:28, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

NR

Thanks for addressing the above quickly last night. We've had to reschedule the call until tomorrow due to SoS' diary - this will now take place **12.30-12.45 tomorrow**.

Grateful if you could all keep an eye on your sections and flag to me if any events mean the briefing needs updating - but no need to resubmit if there are no changes.

NR

On Tue, 21 Apr 2020 at 16:19, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks **NR** - please could I just check on a couple of acronyms:

Health team - 'HSC officials' - is HSC an NI body?

On the MACA request, pls can we spell out what a MAT request is? (sorry unsure who'll have done this bit).

NR

On Tue, 21 Apr 2020 at 16:10, **NR** <**NR** @nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi **NR**

With thanks to everyone copied for their contributions, please see the attached [briefing](#) for tomorrow's call with Robin Swann.

Thanks,

NR

On Tue, 21 Apr 2020 at 11:05, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Names Redacted

On the back of PSI's suggestion, we are seeking to set up a call with the Health Minister and SoS either tomorrow afternoon or Thursday. It will only be a short call and give Robin the opportunity to flag any current or upcoming COVID issues and **I&S** may be raised. Still waiting to hear on timings, but so that we can get something to SoS this eve (in the event it happens tomorrow) please can you send up briefing for **5pm this eve?**

Please can this be short, the following format has proved helpful before:

Steer **NR**

COVID - points to land/questions to ask - **NR** /COVID team - 2/3 bullets max.

I&S

- **NR**

- 2/3 bullets max

Grateful if the above can be on 1 page with any further Q&A below.

I'll be in touch if the meeting is arranged for Thursday, in which case the deadline would be Wednesday 5pm.

NR

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Ciarán Hayes (PPS) - **I&S**

- **NR**

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