

25/02/2020, 13:16 - Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. No one outside of this chat, not even WhatsApp, can read or listen to them. Tap to learn more.

25/02/2020, 13:16 - Robin Swann: Robin: I'm hearing [redacted] I&S [redacted] ski trip on its way back from Milan to be quarantined. Any information I can share?

25/02/2020, 13:17 - Robin Swann: from Doug Beattie

25/02/2020, 13:19 - Robin Swann:

<http://www.ballymenaguardian.co.uk/news/2020/02/25/gallery> [redacted] I&S [redacted] ski-trip-pupils-and-staff-sent-home-to-self-isolate-8226/

25/02/2020, 19:07 - Robin Swann: Grahame Keddie MD Belfast International Airport [redacted] I&S [redacted]

25/02/2020, 19:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Will arrange for Consultant from PHA to ring Grahame directly this evening.

25/02/2020, 23:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Grahame raised valid issues which PHA must address in context of a rapidly evolving situation & changing of case definition. Learning for next phase identified and further support to staff in ports and airports clearly required. I will be issuing further advice in the morning. Very constructive conversation with Minister Weir, clearly across his brief & supportive & appreciative of the call. Apologised for social media leak following his briefing to MP party colleague in Ballymena. We were on the back foot today as a consequence of unanticipated consequences of midterm school trips & this mornings change in geographical case definition. At close of play I think we have largely recovered our position & media coverage more informed. Regrettably despite our best efforts given this will remain rapidly evolving we may get caught similarly again - will attempt to anticipate and avert in so far as is possible.

26/02/2020, 09:00 - Robin Swann: Thanks Michael, Radio Ulster playing a very good Coronavirus Q&A recording, but its advising people to call NHS 111.

29/02/2020, 15:22 - Dr Michael McBride: [redacted] NR [redacted] (file attached) [redacted] [Irrelevant image]

29/02/2020, 15:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I have spoken to counterparts in Rol and David Sterling. Largely a political interface. Situation here unchanged and I have very little to contribute beyond yesterday's briefing to FMdFM. Let me know if you want a call prior to 4pm. Michael

29/02/2020, 15:24 - Robin Swann: if you're ok for a quick chat?

29/02/2020, 15:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Just confirmed Minister Harris will be dialling in to the call. Michael

29/02/2020, 17:53 - Robin Swann: <https://www.rte.ie/news/coronavirus/2020/0229/1119357-coronavirus-ireland/>

29/02/2020, 17:53 - Robin Swann: "Meanwhile, a healthcare expert from the Royal College of Surgeons has said the urgency of Covid-19 merits the cessation of government formation talks and for political leaders to instead focus on national planning to deal with an outbreak of the virus here."

29/02/2020, 18:03 - Dr Michael McBride: The problem with doctors is that they don't practice what they preach; a surgeon would never seek to advise on the management of a heart problem or diabetes - why on earth do they feel it is appropriate to misuse their standing in society to make political commentary. The BMA here & at times the Royal Colleges also do so. As you have said, leave the politics to you and other politicians. I learnt that once the hard way.

29/02/2020, 18:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister a development in RoI - happy to discuss by phone.

29/02/2020, 19:07 - Dr Michael McBride: CMO RoI will announce confirmed case around 8 or more likely 8.30. Travel related. They will indicate a person has tested positive. No implications for us at this time although still a possibly once contact tracing in respect of flight completed ie 2 rows behind and in front of passenger. Minister Harris being briefed around now although may be a little later so in confidence at this time. I will ask David to prepare a very short statement from you indicating ongoing cooperation confirming no known implementations for us at this time etc. Once lines cleared their end you may wish to consider advising FM/dFM, Chair/Deputy chair. I assume Minister Harris will wish to speak with you to advise directly. Happy to discuss if you wish.

02/03/2020, 18:20 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

02/03/2020, 18:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes PHA will be there. Will probably be a media circus.

03/03/2020, 17:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, we have a potential further development - equivocal. Confirmation awaited. If confirmed complex contact at least 3 nation contact tracing involved. Self isolating at present. Clinical assessment will be carried out. If confirmed will be by press release.

03/03/2020, 20:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister developments for RoI implications for us. No details as yet. We not mention NI links in media briefing. Mr Harris about to ring you. Party of 18 ski trip in Italy NI Company. HSE & PHA to liaise. Happy to chat

04/03/2020, 13:43 - Dr Michael McBride: 32 new cases England - announcement 2 pm

04/03/2020, 19:39 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Minister Harris will be contacting you when he is advised. Complex cluster. No implications for us.

06/03/2020, 10:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister another fatality to be announced later in England.

06/03/2020, 10:38 - Robin Swann: linked to 1st?

Cork Hospital sending or sent home 60 staff?

07/03/2020, 16:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, 3 further presumed positives all travel related from Italy. Have discussed with David & agreed simple statement as no material change and as we anticipated.

07/03/2020, 16:59 - Robin Swann: Is the travel connected?

07/03/2020, 17:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Details still being collected but all separate from what I have been advised. Unlinked to other cases.

07/03/2020, 17:14 - Robin Swann: any linkage through Dublin.

07/03/2020, 17:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Don't have those details as yet. Will advise

07/03/2020, 17:36 - Robin Swann: just out of curiosity and no panic with answers; are any of our +ve being ventilated, are they all in Belfast, what status is our 1st case?

07/03/2020, 18:20 - Robin Swann: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/my-week-chris-whitty-pdxw3lpxl>

07/03/2020, 18:21 - Dr Michael McBride: First case now discharged and well. Will include in Tuesdays statement. To my knowledge others all well & I have not been advised otherwise. Monday we will be moving to a three stage care path; self isolation at home; self isolation with support; admission. Again will cover in Tuesdays statement. Monday's COBR(M) likely to seek sign off of social distancing approach for England which they now need to move to introduce. As CMOs we have considered today with modelling by SAGE. Effectively self isolation of two main groups severely immunocomprised for 13 wks and "cocooning" the over 70s generally and tighter for those with underlying conditions for again up to 13 weeks. Complicated public messaging and even more so in terms of implementation. I think your statement should be an oral on Tuesday. Thursday HC in terms of your may be dominated by this. Next weeks challenge is to continue with containment, transitioning to delay and explaining what the next steps will look like.

07/03/2020, 18:42 - Dr Michael McBride: Living the dream - like all of us! Maybe someone will come in and tell us it was just an exercise, we all did very well and it's now over. I wish.

08/03/2020, 10:16 - Robin Swann: So to disturb, alot of interest over the footballer who tested positive yesterday, latest he was in Kelly's nightclub last night, can we ascertain with breaking patient confidentiality, what happened to him or what actions he took after he was contacted?

08/03/2020, 10:16 - Robin Swann: *sorry to disturb

08/03/2020, 12:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, yes Robbie Butler phoned me late last night. I have been advised by PHA that contact tracing continued to 10pm last night & resumed this morning. I would suggest that we make no comment to confirm or otherwise identify of individuals. Indicating that in relation to any presumed positive PHA will work rapidly to identify those who may have been in close contact & provide appropriate advice. I appreciate doesn't answer the question but we have a line to hold. I will get back to you when it is confirmed contact tracing has been completed which should provide necessary reassurance.

08/03/2020, 13:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister PHA having conference call with club at 2pm. Will update you thereafter.

08/03/2020, 14:08 - Robin Swann: apologises for Robbie phoning, he told me he had emailed you.

08/03/2020, 14:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Not a problem at all. I was in bed & probably wasn't too coherent. Hence my request for email. Can appreciate the calls and pressures he was under.

08/03/2020, 18:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, 5 new presumed positives in NI. Contact tracing underway. I have no further details. Discussed with David, proposing simple media as per yesterday & I have also suggested we move away from media statements and just then daily reporting as per England. Scotland & Wales also have additional cases. You may wish to advise FMdFM. Not aware of any implications for RoI but not certain at this time.

08/03/2020, 18:52 - Robin Swann: Thanks, agree with statement, can you advise, not urgent, if related to the footballer.

09/03/2020, 22:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Further 4 additional for tomorrow pm. Contact tracing underway. FCO advice advising against travel to all of Italy to be updated shortly.

10/03/2020, 20:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister further 2 to be confirmed tomorrow pm.

10/03/2020, 20:30 - Robin Swann: Thanks.

11/03/2020, 22:33 - Robin Swann: <https://news.sky.com/story/coronavirus-flares-lit-outside-arena-as-football-match-played-behind-closed-doors-11955763>

11/03/2020, 22:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Every decision has a behavioural consequence. Sometimes posing greater risks as here.


11/03/2020, 22:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Busy few days ahead. Major decision at COBR tomorrow for next week. Important oral statement Mon in all likelihood. Have discussed with Richard & David. Much work to steady & ready the system through to & over the weekend.

11/03/2020, 22:44 - Robin Swann: Emergency Legislation will be published next week as well.

11/03/2020, 22:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Perhaps the beginning of the end of the messy phase - now just the really difficult work for all over next number of months. This in itself will bring a new reality and discipline.

11/03/2020, 22:54 - Robin Swann: indeed, you not watching yourself on Nolan?

11/03/2020, 22:56 - Dr Michael McBride: No going to bed.

13/03/2020, 14:32 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> 

13/03/2020, 16:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Helpful

13/03/2020, 16:54 - Robin Swann: my take is, sf will jump on Community Transmissions as a reason to close schools..

13/03/2020, 17:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes and it's not. I have been trailing for days when not if.

17/03/2020, 20:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Taoiseach, make addressing the nation 9 pm RTE. Tony and I spoke today on strands of N/S cooperation & joint working. Meeting later this week.

17/03/2020, 20:43 - Robin Swann: anything significant - any other steps that'll see calls for the same here?

17/03/2020, 20:47 - Dr Michael McBride: I haven't been advised that's all I know. That would be my concern given 69 new cases in RoI today. If so and we are bounced I think our line should be. "Minister Harris and I have agreed that our CMOs will meet in coming days to develop areas for joint working in the interests of the population in the RoI and NI"

17/03/2020, 21:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, really a call to arms, preparation for the times ahead and catch up on our protection of the most vulnerable. Extremely impressive and statesman like even if he did steal a few of our lines. It may risk being contrasted by the media with a "divided" NI Executive.

17/03/2020, 22:12 - Robin Swann: Had a call from Peter Weir, looking at mtg with you & me in the morning, I believe Philip Weir is to contact you.

*They are looking to move on Special school closures by the end of the week.

17/03/2020, 23:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes asked to attend meeting at 9 am. I have no details. Do you? I would support an immediate partial closure of such schools for those with severe complex underlying condition with appropriate support for families. For those with LD eg severe autism with no complex underlying conditions to move to close with no alternatives would be hugely impactful

and disruptive. We need to have plans in place. I am pressing CMO colleagues that subject to SAGE advice on Thursday I will advise you to bring forward Easter holidays probably to 31st March. Proviso - DE must have sustainable arrangements to support vital HCWs with children to ensure no adverse consequences on health care until September. Without this we may crash the health service. Also Peter to be assured no detriment to education & examinations through provision of alternative arrangements. Time between now and 31st to finalise these plans. Provided we have evidence of benefit & advise Westminster in advance I can live with that. Michael

17/03/2020, 23:16 - Robin Swann: He has wind that Scots are going to move independently and that Gavin Williamson is to make a similar proposal to Boris on Easter as you have suggested & ground already being laid <https://twitter.com/bbcnewsnight/status/1240046231226892293?s=12>

17/03/2020, 23:29 - Dr Michael McBride: That only because I trailed with CMO colleagues earlier this week and today. I'm afraid they don't quite get it. Everyone wants to take the lead now. Suggest you & the Executive do and steal a March if any planning to do so prior to Thursday advice from advice. How about a statement along the lines of "unless scientific evidence recommends a further delay, NI schools will be bringing forward the Easter holidays to the 31st March and remain closed until further notice. In the interim schools should put in place plans to ensure there is no detriment to children's education or examinations and that there is provision for childcare of frontline health professionals." This will now be a political rush to declare first and Nichola will want to lead the way. Not optimistic on UK consensus on timing and perhaps in discussion with Peter, Arlene and Michelle we should steal a march and declare our intent. Schools closures are inevitable- we might as well be on the right side given we have held the line at cost. Suggest you consider floating before the morning. Nichola may cease the moment.

17/03/2020, 23:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies for typos no specs

17/03/2020, 23:40 - Robin Swann: are you content I share with Peter/Arlene/Michelle, early am?

CMO would support an immediate partial closure of special schools for those with severe complex underlying condition with appropriate support for families. For those with LD eg severe autism with no complex underlying conditions to move to close with no alternatives would be hugely impactful and disruptive, so there needs to be plans in place for support for those pupils, their families & carers.

And that unless scientific evidence recommends a further delay, NI schools should bring forward the Easter holidays to the 31st March and remain closed until further notice. In the interim schools should put in place plans to ensure there is no detriment to children's education or examinations and that there is provision for childcare of frontline health professionals.

17/03/2020, 23:46 - Robin Swann: or from me, but then question is do you have CMO support?

17/03/2020, 23:49 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I have now departed from the realms of professional evidence based advice to you to anticipating further SAGE evidence. I am confident they will recommend school closures although probably not prior to Easter. You and Ministerial colleagues have held the UK line at cost in support of me. I need to now recognise the political reality and confusing public narrative. The experience of my CMO colleagues is just not there. This is not a time

for purist academic modelling. There are no certainties. Happy for you to share. Scotland should not lead the way and Nichola will pre announce.

17/03/2020, 23:51 - Dr Michael McBride: I will sort my CMO colleagues leave that to me. They have no appreciation of the complexity of the politics in NI or N/S. I shall seek forgiveness with a short early warning.

17/03/2020, 23:54 - Robin Swann: Thanks, I'll issue to the others after 7am tomorrow, or no one will get any sleep, I don't think Scots will move too early pre COBRA, tomorrow am gives Peter something for Committee & may help with the JR.

17/03/2020, 23:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I may have misunderstood but I would strongly caution against Peter pre announcing at the Committee as this is an Executive decision. Just to be aware I have not discussed with Richard so might be best if this a political proposal when we meet tomorrow and the request is to me to consider and advise. Pending this suggest you take a tactical view from Richard as in my experience he is good as such things and may proffer some useful considerations for you as Minister.

18/03/2020, 00:01 - Robin Swann: will discuss further in the morning, won't issue anything.

20/03/2020, 15:37 - Dr Michael McBride: COBR(M) informal tip off - will be recommending UK wide closure of clubs, pubs & bars. Non food shops/food shops takes to remain open.

20/03/2020, 15:37 - Robin Swann: but RoI hasn't done that????

20/03/2020, 23:57 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted> 

21/03/2020, 08:10 - Robin Swann: <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/alex-kane-o-neill-should-have-looked-before-she-leapt-on-school-closures-1.4207046?mode=amp>

21/03/2020, 08:26 - Robin Swann: "Your Tag-Team performance with Dr Michael McBride on The View, was reassuring, comforting, but also at the same time brutally realistic - and this was needed."

21/03/2020, 22:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, apparently niece of a 95 yr old has announced death on social media from COVID-19. Had been in CAH ICU for 24 hrs.

21/03/2020, 22:18 - Robin Swann: had one of our Cllrs from Banbridge raise it as well, told to await official confirmation.

22/03/2020, 13:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Just off CMO call. 2 pm press conference FM Scotland. She may possibly say something further re Weddings/Parties/crowding in shops or even calling for all non essential shops to close. Concerns that ICU capacity will be exceeded in Scotland in 3 wks if transmission does slow & social distancing not observed. Evidence of benefit/disbenefit of non essential shop closures just not there but it may emphasis the messages on scenes of crowding & ignoring social distancing which is troubling.

22/03/2020, 13:29 - Robin Swann: Thanks, have we modelling on icu capacity yet?

22/03/2020, 13:37 - Dr Michael McBride: Underway. Will share when available. The key is the social distancing to reduce transmission so we don't get there. I suspect we are probably 3-4 weeks out from exceeding ours irrespective of how many we order. I have had conversations yesterday & today with RoI and NHSE re mutual aid but recognising there will be pressures everywhere.

22/03/2020, 14:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister will need to seek your agreement by phone before 3 pm re expanding the thermo fish testing for HCWs. Might I call you with details of the ask re the legal vehicle to proceed? Michael

22/03/2020, 14:59 - Robin Swann: call anytime

22/03/2020, 18:27 - Robin Swann: apologises, I know you told me, when will this be announced & can we have lines ready?

22/03/2020, 18:28 - Dr Michael McBride: I understand will be announced tomorrow by the PM. No time as yet.

23/03/2020, 11:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, We have had 3rd COVID-19 death this am in UHD. 67yr multiple comorbidities severe COPD. PHA being notified. Will keep you updated.

23/03/2020, 11:58 - Dr Michael McBride: COBR(M) later today to be arranged. CMO call just finished. We are to recommend the need to introduce further measures to get R (reproductive number) below 1. To include unnecessary retail (to be agreed), social gatherings of any type. The move likely to be "shouldn't be doing anything unless absolutely necessary." Indicating people to exercise once a day in family group but away from others. Emergency "brake" interventions now for a short time & then relax with other sustained measures already in place for some time.

23/03/2020, 12:00 - Robin Swann: FM of Wales just had a conf call with DAs and gave out as above.

24/03/2020, 10:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Understand RoI may be announcing later a range of further measures similar to ours.

24/03/2020, 14:06 - Robin Swann: Just to take the forr road in this debate, should I open my wind with " we have just released 30% of our pandemic stock pile of PPE"

24/03/2020, 14:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Go for it

24/03/2020, 16:11 - Dr Michael McBride: I see Taoiseach now playing catch up re social distancing.

24/03/2020, 21:22 - Robin Swann: Thks for earlier, you're one of the main reasons I think we can hold this together.

24/03/2020, 22:03 - Robin Swann: and I see Leo has just nationalised the health service.

24/03/2020, 22:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I genuinely couldn't hold anything together without you in "front of me." FMdFM have asked that I (and I assume you) join the media briefing at 4.15 tomorrow. Indicated to our press office prepared to do subject to your agreement.

24/03/2020, 22:11 - Robin Swann: yes have agreed to both of us, think they have run out of things to say.

24/03/2020, 22:19 - Dr Michael McBride: Michelle?!

24/03/2020, 22:33 - Robin Swann: your point is well made

25/03/2020, 21:28 - Robin Swann:

https://twitter.com/conorgallaghe_r/status/1242889990205509632?s=12

25/03/2020, 21:28 - Robin Swann: here's the next call for PPE

26/03/2020, 23:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Naomi on the view? Has she had a personality transplant - what happened her line at the Executive "I haven't seen the CMO for months!!!" Very supportive of you and preparation & leadership.

26/03/2020, 23:35 - Robin Swann: didn't watch it, you or I weren't on it...

26/03/2020, 23:36 - Robin Swann: Be guided by Michael and not the civil servants . You are doing an amazing job , looking at the situation as a nurse, a mother, a carer , as a ex Stormont person , I trust in you so so much to deliver . You can sleep soundly . Forgive the language but frankly you have the balls that will keep NI safe . Michael and yourself are one hell of a team . Thank you in behalf of many people who do not have the access to thank you personally 🙏 sleep well you deserve it .

26/03/2020, 23:36 - Robin Swann: from a retired nurse who has re-registered

26/03/2020, 23:37 - Dr Michael McBride: Respect. Thank you for sharing.

27/03/2020, 20:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, RoI are moving to a two week spell of "restricted movement", no nonessential work and "cocooning". To be announced this pm. Starting midnight. Clearly will hear more from some parties re "lockdown." Playing catch up on "shielding".

27/03/2020, 20:43 - Robin Swann: Thanks, had a missed call 15mins ago from Minister Harris.

27/03/2020, 20:49 - Robin Swann: 2km radius travel from your home

28/03/2020, 16:53 - Robin Swann: Hi there Robin, keep meaning to send this message but always end up getting sucked into something else.

Well wow...what a baptism of fire you have had. I'm sure most right thinking people would have run for the hills had they known this was on the horizon.

But I know I speak on behalf of many many people when I say you are doing an incredible job. A voice of authority and reason during these unsettling times. You have set the bar very high for those who will, one day, follow in your footsteps.

You are blessed with the brilliance of our CMO. A Dr who has outclassed all other CMOs on these islands. By all means, feel free to pass that sentiment on to him as I don't have his mobile number.

None of this can be easy on both of your families. Hopefully you are both getting some respite from the awful situation unfolding.

There are some incredibly dark days ahead. And while it will probably feel like you're drowning - you may even ponder what the point of it is - just remember that there is a great deal of gratitude for what you and Michael are doing for the country & for all who live here. Thank you and keep doing what you're doing.

As Rudy Giuliani said: it is in times of crisis that good leaders emerge.

Stay strong. And stay safe.

28/03/2020, 16:57 - Robin Swann: Marc Mallett UTV

28/03/2020, 16:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Thank you - blurred vision reading - means a lot. One day we still down together and look back. Thank you for all your support. It's been simply outstanding - I more than most know the burden you have been carrying. It's a burden thats been easier for me with you shouldering.

Will send you through email and happy to call when suits to talk through the clinical prioritisation paper for MIG tomorrow at 11 am. M

31/03/2020, 16:21 - Robin Swann: whats in this herbal medicine??

31/03/2020, 16:22 - Dr Michael McBride: If there's alcohol I think I'll have some!!!

31/03/2020, 16:25 - Robin Swann: as long as there's no 🦋

31/03/2020, 23:29 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

31/03/2020, 23:35 - Robin Swann: thanks, also need a chat with Olive tomorrow, I'm still not confident in nos reporting, PHA declared approx 350 today, but in a different report NHSC reported completing approx 130, so central lab must have bottomed out, and running duplicate tests for the same person doesn't make up the difference.

31/03/2020, 23:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Happy to join you on the call Minister.

31/03/2020, 23:40 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **[Irrelevant image]**

31/03/2020, 23:58 - Dr Michael McBride: First Minister me thinks when this is all over! I'll be your dFM!!

01/04/2020, 00:00 - Robin Swann: you on the Chinese herbal medicine??

01/04/2020, 00:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Joking - I will be burnt out and burned when this is all over more like as not. **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

01/04/2020, 00:01 - Dr Michael McBride: I wish. I may be when this is over. Good night.

01/04/2020, 00:02 - Robin Swann: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**. Good night.

02/04/2020, 14:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister will ring in 5 mins if ok.

02/04/2020, 14:24 - Robin Swann: suits me

02/04/2020, 15:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you on Zoom in meeting?

02/04/2020, 15:13 - Robin Swann: yes

02/04/2020, 15:13 - Robin Swann: its a wide cast

02/04/2020, 15:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes

02/04/2020, 15:15 - Robin Swann: concern the reason our critical care bed capacity is due to only one spot on chart, showing less than 20%

02/04/2020, 23:56 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister an informed piece on excess mortality.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51979654>

03/04/2020, 09:01 - Dr Michael McBride: How are you? I thought your Party leader spoke extremely well as did FM. You have been statesman like throughout this - and everyone sees that. As someone once said "Don't let the b..... get you down!"

03/04/2020, 09:30 - Robin Swann: In need of some strong chinese herbal medicine..

05/04/2020, 22:03 - Robin Swann: If you get a chance can you pass on my regards & thanks to

NR

05/04/2020, 22:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I spoke with NR earlier. Will do.

06/04/2020, 20:15 - Dr Michael McBride: PM being reported as being transferred to ICU.

06/04/2020, 20:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Laura Kuensberg.

06/04/2020, 20:57 - Robin Swann: not good.

07/04/2020, 22:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Just heard I&S getting out of hospital tomorrow. She has been an inpatient from September. Responding well to treatment. Some good things do happen. Michael

07/04/2020, 22:21 - Robin Swann: 👍

09/04/2020, 11:54 - Robin Swann: testing yesterday-

638 in house

204 SSE

842 Total 👍

09/04/2020, 12:01 - Dr Michael McBride: The way to go!

12/04/2020, 22:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

Have arranged that Alan Stout will offer to do GMU in am to add balance to NR interview as a Belfast GP at the forefront. NR does not represent the RCGP and no one but himself. I even understand he may be on a retainer with the BBC although of that I am not certain. Michael

12/04/2020, 22:55 - Robin Swann: Thanks, had thought of Tom Black, but Alan would be sound, needs to push Covid Centres.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

12/04/2020, 23:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Excellent news. Please pass on my best wishes.

16/04/2020, 21:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, England down to 60k gowns. Alert to system probably tomorrow lunchtime. I need to be confident that we are not in a position to assist given their position. They have no reliable firm delivery schedule. RAF ready to fly to China as and when. I

will be making calls this evening and sending in the audit team from 6 am. I have offered to confirm with Chris Whitty by 10 am if we can help. At present I am just not confident of our numbers and modelling. I will keep you posted. If we can do anything will most likely be from our emergency stockpile for which I am responsible to you. Will keep you informed.

16/04/2020, 22:16 - Robin Swann: Thanks, sent latest s/s

2019 wkly avg 433

2020 wkly avg 1st qtr 1,229

last 7 days 131,025

16/04/2020, 22:17 - Robin Swann: *our issues?

17/04/2020, 19:10 - Robin Swann: Sorry to be a pain, could you check my desk for my house keys..

17/04/2020, 19:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes here with your pass - are you locked out?

22/04/2020, 04:19 - Robin Swann: Michael, in reply to your message into the group earlier;

I came home on Monday evening, disappointed but content that we had managed a situation that would have had an irreversible reputational damage of reporting 0 deaths rather than 13, reputational damage to the Dept and the 3 of us who were on that platform, reputational damage to our message, which if undermined would and could cost lives & still could, to experience a repeat again yesterday afternoon, I can't currently put into words.

I have stood in front of the media, the Assembly, the Health Committee, the Executive and defended what at times should have been indefensible, so to be let down twice by something that should be simple I find difficult to comprehend. So I am now in the unfortunate position of asking myself is this conspiracy or cockup, I still lean to the latter. But the frustration of being unable to get a simple answer to a simple question continues, what I think should result in a yes or no answer, gains a response by way of a data set or a thesis. But today will be a new day, with additional challenges, where I now believe the majority will be of our own making.

Thanks for your continuing work & support.

22/04/2020, 06:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Many thanks for your understanding Minister. I share your deep frustration. Again my sincerest apologies. Michael

24/04/2020, 18:47 - Robin Swann: https://factcheckni.org/fact-checks/are-covid-19-deaths-in-northern-ireland-50-higher-than-ireland/amp/?__twitter_impression=true

25/04/2020, 16:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Ministers, fingers crossed I have the "testing submission" now where you expect it in the first place!

25/04/2020, 17:03 - Robin Swann: similar to South Korea... and meeting the WHO requirements of TEST, TEST, TEST???

25/04/2020, 17:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Now that did make we laugh ...

25/04/2020, 17:04 - Robin Swann: 👍

26/04/2020, 16:48 - Robin Swann: are the 4 NI testing sites, the Randox/Deloitte ones?

26/04/2020, 16:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister my sincere apologies for this breakdown in communication. That would be my assumption however I need to have this confirmed. Will check now.

26/04/2020, 17:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, we do not have fully clarity on this. The DA Lead on the National Key Worker Testing programme was only able to advise Deloitte organise all the operational aspects using a number of providers. They have undertaken to get all the details to us tomorrow and have apologised again.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

08/05/2020, 11:30 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371379**

08/05/2020, 11:31 - Robin Swann: Chief, I will leave the science to you.

08/05/2020, 11:32 - Robin Swann: did Robert have colleagues running many clinics?

08/05/2020, 18:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Everyone needs a vet. Robert is one of the best in every sense.

10/05/2020, 22:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, 200 test ring fenced capacity secured/day in RVL to support testing "of all" in 36 Care Homes with ongoing outbreaks prior to change to "test all" approach from 24th April. As discussed this pm we will then proactively roll out in a risk stratified approach to other care homes starting with those with over 50 residents where the evidence tells us the risk is greater. SAGE is to consider a paper this week on testing in care homes etc and Ian Young is chairing a meeting tomorrow of our Strategic Intelligence Group to consider evidence on effective interventions in the sector. NIAS today have confirmed that from Tuesday they can provide 4 mobile testing units to support. Will need to train more staff if you wish to scale. Will develop lines for you for Executive tomorrow. You may wish to consider holding back the detail until you announce Tuesday am with paper to Executive Thursday perhaps? Michael

10/05/2020, 22:20 - Robin Swann: sounds like a plan - 200 I thought you said 250?

10/05/2020, 22:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Forgot you're a Ballymena man! No definitely said 200 but nice try! We will of course increase as quickly as possible.

10/05/2020, 22:22 - Dr Michael McBride: As ever if you direct 250 its 250!

10/05/2020, 22:24 - Robin Swann: whats the capacity for the mobile testing unit?

10/05/2020, 22:24 - Robin Swann: can we use national tests in them?

10/05/2020, 22:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Currently NIAS have four trained paramedics who can swab. They plan to double up (2x2) to provide four mobile teams. They are happy to train more although might delay roll out and therefore more phased next week. Plan would be to use NIAS for 1-2 weeks then switch to national mobile testing initiative & capacity. At this stage however given outbreak now peaking in care homes, the shorter turnaround in RVL is advantageous. Medium,

longer term absolutely National testing programme. Brid is discussing with them in the morning with view to bring forward the mobile testing capability.

10/05/2020, 22:38 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted>

INQ000371380

10/05/2020, 22:43 - Dr Michael McBride: And I thought the Executive was dysfunctional!! I do hope my proposed amendments to the Executive Decision Making paper hold tomorrow.

10/05/2020, 22:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Your suggestions re "extensive/immediate" and wording from your Regs paper re WHO etc seems to have held sway.

10/05/2020, 22:49 - Robin Swann: "This expansion is expected to commence immediately"

10/05/2020, 22:49 - Robin Swann: we can hold details until Tues

10/05/2020, 22:50 - Dr Michael McBride: In effect will and yes strongly recommend you announce and claim Tuesday.

10/05/2020, 22:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Need some reassuring lines for tomorrow I suggest without all the detail, promise of paper Thursday following Ian's meeting 2pm tomorrow and SAGE consideration of same.

10/05/2020, 22:53 - Robin Swann: yip - the bigger issue will be, Min of Econ has a letter in slating the paper, "no clear timetable only passing references to the economy..."

starting to feel like a Foster / Dodds tussle...

10/05/2020, 22:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Will leave the politics to you. A welcome distraction me thinks.

16/05/2020, 14:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have had message from dFM asking if I would take a call from Junior Minister Kearney this afternoon in advance of Monday's Executive. I assume relates to the Contact Tracing and/or App paper. How would wish me to respond. Michael

16/05/2020, 14:52 - Robin Swann: am happy enough you speak to him, may also be about COPNI piece in Irish News calling me to explain publicly why I personally won't introduce universal testing in Carehomes now he has OFMdFM support.

16/05/2020, 14:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok

16/05/2020, 17:02 - Robin Swann: We're you able to get them sorted?

16/05/2020, 17:04 - Dr Michael McBride: No response from Michelle when I replied agreeing and no contact yet from Declan. Gabriel and Mary Lou must still be talking!!

16/05/2020, 17:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Will keep you posted

16/05/2020, 18:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Just spoken to Declan. It was about "testing" more general outside of Contact tracing. Indicated you had requested an updated NI Testing Strategy Paper for Thursdays Executive. We have this well advanced. Indicated you may advise as such in your introductory comments. He seemed reassured by that. Seemed conciliatory and wishing to work collectively. Happy to update more fully.

17/05/2020, 10:36 - Robin Swann: <https://twitter.com/COPNI/status/1261946143333855232?s=09>

17/05/2020, 10:43 - Robin Swann: has SAGE advice moved?

17/05/2020, 12:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have heard nothing. Effectively we are "moving to test all" in NI. It's language. We have talked about a "phase roll out"

17/05/2020, 15:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just off conference call with Lourda, Naresh and David. Will have draft statement & press release with you within the hour.

17/05/2020, 16:49 - Robin Swann: Thanks.

18/05/2020, 20:37 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371381**

18/05/2020, 21:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Noted. Leading the way!

21/05/2020, 20:56 - Robin Swann: Had a call from Econ Minister they are putting in a request to change regs to allow hotels to take pre-bookings at their own risk, not sure where it sits in the regs, but had something in the back of my head we looked at it before?

21/05/2020, 22:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we did and also caravan parks. It wasn't approved. Can dig out.

21/05/2020, 22:24 - Robin Swann: she's asking we look again, south allowing it she's worried they'll pick up alot of end of year staycation bookings. no panic

21/05/2020, 22:29 - Dr Michael McBride: As long as her officials complete the template and get it to us tomorrow we can process. Provided this is at owners risk given circumstances may change, then should be ok.

22/05/2020, 09:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister as you working in the constituency- might I be Minister for the day??!!

22/05/2020, 09:30 - Robin Swann: Sure...

You can even sit in my chair..

22/05/2020, 09:31 - Robin Swann: only draw back I have to make my own tea...

22/05/2020, 09:33 - Dr Michael McBride: No can do then

22/05/2020, 09:35 - Robin Swann: but upside I can play Willie Nelson songs at full volume...

22/05/2020, 10:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister email received. Will obtain update requested. As we are testing more than elsewhere in the UK we need to consider how we report & any positives identified. Technically more than two positives is an outbreak. We may need to report as "surveillance" or "active case finding" otherwise we may begin to see numbers of reported "outbreaks" increase and then that becomes the story.

22/05/2020, 20:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister in respect of Clifton House, just wondering if you should brief **NR** I mentioned to **NR** re need to brief local political reps. Do you wish me to flag to Cathy Jack.

22/05/2020, 21:00 - Robin Swann: **NR** had raised earlier had asked Trust brief local reps, I updated FMdFM C&VC.

22/05/2020, 21:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok. Will follow up with Cathy.

25/05/2020, 14:49 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted>

[Irrelevant image]

25/05/2020, 15:40 - Dr Michael McBride: Cute - we bark or bite though. Clearly fully recovered.

29/05/2020, 23:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, in confidence I have had an approach for a "thinking out loud" conversation with dFM and Minister Kearney tomorrow. No specific issues have been flagged. Are you content that I facilitate and engage or alternatively decline? My sense is that at present such engagement and pre Executive meeting discussions have provided been constructive and helpful, that said I will be guided by you. I will confine any input or discussion to the available public health, medical and scientific advice and revert to you subsequently if you are content.
Michael

30/05/2020, 01:12 - Robin Swann: Certainly they are working, also maybe worthwhile scheduling one for me, as also in confidence for some reason Richard has decided to withdraw Marks invite to attend TMG on my behalf, which I'll have to have a look at at the start of the week.

30/05/2020, 01:15 - Robin Swann: and also just incase, can you make sure they are, even if informal, recorded in your diary, had a letter from the Committee Chair, referring to the gap between you & I attending Committee.

30/05/2020, 20:20 - Robin Swann: FM doing Marr show in the morning, do we have more up to date figures on Contact Tracing than Thus brief?

30/05/2020, 20:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have sought same and will revert when I receive.

30/05/2020, 21:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I've just spoken with Olive. Will forward details as soon as available.

30/05/2020, 22:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

Update from PHA and Olive.

"In the last week we have had 218 positive cases and contact tracing has resulted in 290 individuals being contacted. 64% of these have been contact traced within 24 hrs and approximately 80% with 48 hrs. Yesterday (Friday) we had 24 positives and were able to contact 22. Today we had 28 positives and contacted 18. Today's figures are below the 80% target so might suggest we don't release to media.

Very positive response from public who have been contacted.

Michael

01/06/2020, 10:03 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted>

awaiting attachment

01/06/2020, 21:20 - Dr Michael McBride: dFM & I assume Minister Kearney wishing to speak tomorrow 2.15 pm. Will enter in diary. Do you remain content? Happy to discuss in the morning.
Michael

01/06/2020, 21:21 - Robin Swann: sure, SoS asking for a mtg with FMdFM & me tomorrow afternoon, they'll want briefed beforehand.

01/06/2020, 21:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Understood.

03/06/2020, 22:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Ian and I have responded to Minister Mallon's PS as has Richard.

05/06/2020, 14:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just received call from Minister Kearney re briefing from Taoiseach and Tainiste at request of dFM.

05/06/2020, 17:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, DfI has draft statement to issue indicating mindful of public confidence while recognising limited public health benefit is proposing to the Executive that face coverings on public transport should be mandatory. You may wish to raise plus Matt Hancock 5 pm announcement?

05/06/2020, 17:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Should add Ian is named in draft press release but does not sighted his support & is factually accurate

08/06/2020, 19:56 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister with your agreement I've asked NR MD SEHSCT to support Cathy and you at Executive briefing. A no nonsense very experienced MD, surgically trained and a consultant in ED & highly regarded - will send an important message of "rebuild" being clinically led. Have discussed with David. Trust I haven't been too presumptuous - will create the right optics.

08/06/2020, 19:57 - Robin Swann: That's grand, but doubt many of their questions will be on the rebuild.

16/06/2020, 18:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, just of call from Minister Lyons in respect of Churches opening. I understand he may ask of you on Thursday that we work with Churches to provide some QA of their respective plans for phased lower risk services potentially to commence some restricted services 2 weeks or so from now. As was your experience in recent it is clear that these plans are highly developed with the aim of minimising risk in so far as possible. Happy to discuss with Ian in advance and revert to you. M

16/06/2020, 20:15 - Robin Swann: Thanks

16/06/2020, 22:25 - Robin Swann: Michael, seeing calls to open Special Educational Needs schools, although not our remit, do I remember you saying they were setting that had high fatality rates in a previous outbreak, was it H1N1?

16/06/2020, 22:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes Minister. While children generally have a much milder course of illness as compared to adults for those with significant underlying neurological, respiratory or cardiac conditions as well as special educational needs this will not be the case. Particular caution would be needed to protect these children. It needs to be recognised for many parents the only respite they have is when their children are at school with the support of teachers and school nurses. Minister Weir did not raise in our meeting last Friday week but has raised previously. A complex issue of risk/benefit.

17/06/2020, 22:02 - Robin Swann: Have you wired Chris off that we are going to announce 31st of July tomorrow, if not I'll drop Hancock a msg, had tried him earlier but no reply yet, just don't want to blindside them.

17/06/2020, 22:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister not as yet. I suspect as discussed aligns with their timeline. Agree would be could do so and also to learn if they plan to bring forward the date as would be keen we align.

17/06/2020, 22:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you wish me to let Tony Holohan know or will you advise Simon Harries?

17/06/2020, 22:14 - Robin Swann: I'll let Simon know in the morning, but feel free to brief Tony.

17/06/2020, 22:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Will do.

17/06/2020, 22:20 - Robin Swann: Vaughan G. been in contact hes making a statement tomorrow on ONS comparison on deaths, and is going to ask CMOs to review why such a variance and why England was so high (politics at play)

17/06/2020, 22:23 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371383**

17/06/2020, 22:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Vaughan is at liberty to ask his own CMO whatever he wishes but with respect to his jurisdiction but I would respectfully suggest has no role in calling on respective jurisdictions CMOs to consider anything. There is already a process agreed by all of us to look at comparative UK and European impact of COVID-19 including mortality data. Frank Atherton his CMO should be able to reassure him on this.

17/06/2020, 22:28 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, with respect entirely misses the point. No professional should be commenting on matters beyond their competency. It is a matter of fact that a number of virologists and academics in QUB have choosen to provide commentary on clinical, public health and policy matters well outside their competency and experience to what end is highly questionable.

17/06/2020, 22:54 - Robin Swann: He's going to ask Frank to ask CMO to do a joint piece of work.

He's also sent me a copy of that part of his statement, which only refers to Wales/Scotland/England, apparently he won't reference us as there will be little media interest...

17/06/2020, 22:55 - Robin Swann: *to ask CMO Group

17/06/2020, 22:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister his approach is not without significant risk of politicising CMOs which we have successfully guarded against to date. I and no doubt colleagues will wish to appropriately resist any such call which may compromise our expert, impartial and independent advice to respective Ministers. May place Frank in a difficult position.

17/06/2020, 23:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Looks like Nichola on another stealing a march on "shielding" announcement.

17/06/2020, 23:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Have cc'd an email and update following my sharing of our position with acting CMO Scotland.

17/06/2020, 23:10 - Robin Swann: ahh Scottish Nichola, I was wondering what shielding had to do with Infrastructure..

17/06/2020, 23:18 - Dr Michael McBride: With Scottish Nichola we all need to get up earlier in the morning. Politically never misses an opportunity & totally ruthless. On our Nichola & Naomi- we all will never get back the hours lost in pointless nonsense & discourse. Every year as CMO is the equivalent of one dog year. It is a matter of regret and fact that I can only now conclude that their contribution has the equivalence is now 1 human year to 2 dog years. Surely I can now retire!?

17/06/2020, 23:22 - Robin Swann: not until after the 5th May 2022.

17/06/2020, 23:37 - Dr Michael McBride: Of course Minister. I'm your wing man and right behind you as ever! In many respects you have perhaps both the most challenging and most transformative opportunities of any Minister in my experience in my last 14 years as CMO. There has been a major

political, professional and public cultural change as a consequence of COVID-19 which has, despite the challenges opened a narrow window of opportunity which we need to support you in rushing into to fill to maximise the benefit to those we all serve. When all this is done I suspect I will be done, in interim I won't be found wanting, might even realise my life long professional ambition to make a contribution to shaping a service that is truly fit for purpose. I believe I can bring the medical profession and other professions with me in support of you. If your up for it and can secure the cross party political support who knows what May 2022 may bring! Michael

18/06/2020, 18:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, further to BBC coverage the DE guidance to schools is 2 m and where there this is impossible 1 m with mitigation and protective bubbles etc. His letter to schools is potential open to interpretation. M

18/06/2020, 20:45 - Robin Swann: Scots asking are we planning surveillance testing in schools?

18/06/2020, 21:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister there is no evidence to support this. A study of 100 schools underway in England. We are working with QUB and PHA to establish a study to determine benefit. This will most probably be in teachers as opposed to children as "sentinels" for surveillance. Not confirmed as yet. M

18/06/2020, 21:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Just in case raised with you. Separately pushing back at DE guidance which seems to have been changed following our advice and infers signed off by me. Policy colleagues can of course ignore professional advice but need to be clear that when doing so they are assume the risk. I am concerned at content of Minister Weirs letter to schools in that regard. At no time did we advice 1 m for children.

19/06/2020, 09:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed voice call

19/06/2020, 12:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you content that I inform dFM of the background to concerns raised with me the comments on PPE in April, letter to Vice Chancellor etc given her comments on the View last night and media coverage today? David things might be helpful. Happy to discuss.

19/06/2020, 12:57 - Robin Swann: sure, FM called me to pass on her support, and the nonsense of the BBC, and that's me toning down her opinion of them.

19/06/2020, 12:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Thanks. Happy to forward you the email correspondence and concerns expressed by GPs and subsequently my letter to VC of QUB if helpful with any queries you receive.

19/06/2020, 13:15 - Robin Swann: had alerted FMdFM to Rols potential move, send emails over anytime, maybe worth publishing but would take guidance from David?

19/06/2020, 22:38 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister re submission on testing in care homes: this genuinely is a significant and complex achievement and we have effectively suppressed transmission in care home. Please be assured I will have a forward plan of evidence based testing for your consideration in due course.

20/06/2020, 10:02 - Robin Swann: Thanks, its just that this is the only hard & fast target I have set for myself publicly in the past 14weeks, so it's important for me it's met, I also see in todays paper COPNI is now only talking about 'regular' testing no call for every 3 days.

20/06/2020, 10:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I fully understand. All are in no doubt of your expectations. Michael

21/06/2020, 19:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, thank you for agreeing to provide clarification to the Executive. It would be a relief to draw a line under this matter although I expect this will not be the last misrepresentation. Michael

24/06/2020, 18:30 - Robin Swann: Went well, a good team and they are pleased to have Christine,

24/06/2020, 19:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Excellent

24/06/2020, 19:07 - Robin Swann: also very appreciative of dept support throughout.

24/06/2020, 20:48 - Dr Michael McBride: They deserve much better than the board they had.

24/06/2020, 21:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister advised just now dFM wants to press for a larger number than 30 outdoors given Rol going to 200. Suggested 100 with social distancing. I said no - too much too soon especially with messaging around 2-1 m and all the other relaxations. So as you are aware.

24/06/2020, 21:02 - Robin Swann: I was expecting a push.

24/06/2020, 21:02 - Robin Swann: <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/covid-restrictions-warning-over-over-storey-funeral-39313368.html>

24/06/2020, 21:02 - Dr Michael McBride: My assumption exactly

24/06/2020, 21:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Although I only wanted to stop the 12th!!!

24/06/2020, 21:04 - Robin Swann: we have ways...

24/06/2020, 21:06 - Dr Michael McBride: I have offered to meet the Order with Ian and Alan Todd to discuss further if helpful. All soundings very responsible.

24/06/2020, 21:09 - Robin Swann:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

24/06/2020, 21:10 - Dr Michael McBride:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

25/06/2020, 10:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister apologies for this morning

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Have had 2 missed calls from dFM so clearly "100 outside socially distanced" will arise. From risk and science perspective Ian will say if outside and social distancing adhered to risk low and any impact on R can be assessed ie will be neutral. The greater risk is the timing of this with public messaging on 2-1 m. I am concerned about the wider impact of this and that is sends all the wrong public messages. Michael

25/06/2020, 10:04 - Robin Swann: You are where you need to be, we've abused your generosity of your time too often,

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Ian will keep them right..

25/06/2020, 14:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister in building can zoom in to end if required

26/06/2020, 16:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, all for one funeral.

26/06/2020, 16:04 - Robin Swann: most definitely - "depending on the age and number of siblings"

26/06/2020, 16:06 - Dr Michael McBride: PS will have Care Home testing completed Tuesday as per call this pm. Details will take time to pull together into a submission. UK position on ongoing testing will be discussed U.K. CMO call Monday.

29/06/2020, 08:49 - Robin Swann: Hi, do people coming from Eng/Sco/Wal have to self isolate for 14 days in RoI?

29/06/2020, 09:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Everyone coming in to RoI ADVISED to self isolate for 14d is my understanding. No legal basis and not enforced - purely advisory is my understanding.

02/07/2020, 00:45 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, my sense is that in NI as discussed earlier we should now consider stepping up a gear even if at odds with rest of UK. Political considerations I appreciate. I successfully pushed over last few weeks at a UK level for a move from 7d isolation for test positive individuals to 10d- a start given evidence. Happy to discuss. Compulsory face coverings on public transport as per Minister Mallon & in care settings as per new HSC visiting policy an additional step promoting the cultural change necessary in advance of winter. Suggest we support Minister Mallon's paper tomorrow to protect those in public services and to affect cultural attitudes to face coverings more generally. Given our low incidence we now need to revisit extending TTP beyond test positive to asymptomatic and urgently consider inward travel to NI from the rest of UK. Will discuss with Ian, Lourda and Naresh the option of a: "a toward elimination/maximum suppression model for NI?" This is more achievable for us than elsewhere in the U.K. It can't however be maintained with the characteristic of this virus and with travel from RoI and UK. That said, you may wish to consider the legitimate political capital you might claim at this time however short lived. Will prepare a submission - "Suppress and Prevent" Michael

06/07/2020, 18:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we have been working to develop some key public health messages which look good - can email as you wish. Also believe Executive should move to making face coverings in retail sector. We can develop paper. England likely to move to follow position in Scotland. Also working with QUB and PCC re "shielding badge" post 31st July.

06/07/2020, 19:30 - Robin Swann: please, that would be good.

07/07/2020, 12:15 - Robin Swann: BBC News - Coronavirus: 'Up to 16 affected' in County Down clusters

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-53321177>

09/07/2020, 19:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have your car keys. Will return in the morning. Michael

09/07/2020, 20:42 - Robin Swann: Many thanks.

10/07/2020, 09:42 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you able to take a call?

13/07/2020, 18:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, just to advise that Ian and I have developed a draft paper recommending that the wearing of face coverings in retail and other environments such as cinema's etc where not drinking, eating or exercising is made mandatory. We had hoped to table for last Thursdays Executive but ran out of time. Nigel believes placing the enforcement responsibilities on councils would be disproportionate & resource intensive. We could alternatively make a condition of entry to such premises with light touch enforcement- signage etc. I have asked Karen Pearson to convene a meeting of the cross departmental working group next week as DfE will need to lead. I have been asked to do UTV 6pm tomorrow and my proposed line will be if asked "I believe the Executive will wish to consider all options to increase the use of face coverings in advance of autumn and winter including the additional benefit of making mandatory." Are you content? You may wish to begin to trail and support? I have proposed that we consider introducing subject to

Executive consideration and learning from the experience of mandatory requirement on public transport by end July to allow appropriate sector engagement. Michael

13/07/2020, 18:26 - Robin Swann: also need to tie in a message that mandatory wearing in those specific areas are necessary to support those coming out of lock down at the end of the month.

13/07/2020, 18:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Fully agree. Separately working with PCC and QUB to develop a "shielding badge" for those coming out of shielding. Idea originated in Wales. Happy to forward details.

13/07/2020, 18:32 - Robin Swann: Thanks, would be useful.

13/07/2020, 21:49 - Robin Swann: Can we reinforce our msg, via PHA or other, that anyone coming into NI from a RED country even via Rol must quarantine for 14days, theres alot of agitation starting in Rol about American tourists not guaranteeing, only a matter of time before we get asked.

14/07/2020, 09:25 - Robin Swann: you could use the line that you are aware that I am supportive

15/07/2020, 12:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister apologies for intrusion on your leave. Are you able to take a call re Rol.

15/07/2020, 13:28 - Robin Swann: as per earlier 5 of the 9 in Causeway Coast & Glens Council area

15/07/2020, 13:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister noted, relayed on call to PHA just now & ask they follow-up.

15/07/2020, 14:11 - Robin Swann: Spoke to FM, not a fan of compulsory face coverings, but is willing to support if strongly linked to end of shielding, concerns as to who would enforce?

15/07/2020, 14:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, noted. Are you content with your statement to be cleared?

15/07/2020, 14:23 - Robin Swann: Yes, responded to David.

15/07/2020, 14:25 - Robin Swann: Next Executive is next Thursday.

15/07/2020, 14:28 - Dr Michael McBride: We can do all the work in interim for announcement 23rd and introduction 31st- allows to maximise link to protection of those most vulnerable ie those previously "shielding."

15/07/2020, 18:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have received confirmation from PHA Of the 5 cases from 17th June 11th July there is no apparent household or non-household link that has been identified. 2 Ballymoney, 1 Greysteel, 2 Cloughmills. Michael

15/07/2020, 18:06 - Robin Swann: Thanks

15/07/2020, 19:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have just sent you an email marked "urgent" in respect of contamination of Randox swabs ? significance and precautionary action being taken by the National Consortium. Michael

16/07/2020, 12:49 - Robin Swann: 16+ve cases today, maybe worth you saying something today - complacency etc??

16/07/2020, 12:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister need to update re this. Just had call from PHA.

16/07/2020, 17:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have a sent you a submission and response to Randox letter. Provides update on yesterday. You may wish to issue today in advance of SofS statement in commons later.

16/07/2020, 17:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Statement by Matt Hancock was low key and played down any clinical significance and stated no impact on test results. "Pause in use of swabs as a precaution."

17/07/2020, 11:26 - Robin Swann: Hi, see we're reporting 19+ve today, assume Limavady linked?

17/07/2020, 11:45 - Dr Michael McBride: 12 more I'm advised linked to Limavady. Will provide written update later.

17/07/2020, 13:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I'm hearing informally that DfC have just alerted Karen that their minister wants spectators back for sport this weekend. I have indicated I could not support 1. Significant cluster/outbreak Limavady 2. Agreed last Executive no further amendments to Regulations until 23rd and redrafting & 3. Humanly not possible in terms of ask of staff. Michael

17/07/2020, 13:14 - Robin Swann: to coincide with the starting of GAA games on Sunday?

Fully supportive that there is no way we could support at this point.

17/07/2020, 13:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Would be reckless. No doubt calls for a video conference later. Is this only about funerals & GAA - sorry!

17/07/2020, 13:16 - Robin Swann:

<https://twitter.com/BBCRadioFoyle/status/1284097890986622976?s=09>

17/07/2020, 16:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister would you wish a verbal update

17/07/2020, 16:31 - Robin Swann: sure..

17/07/2020, 18:37 - Robin Swann: <https://twitter.com/rtenews/status/1284179621911703554?s=09>

17/07/2020, 19:16 - Dr Michael McBride: ??!! exasperating

20/07/2020, 18:22 - Robin Swann: any paper to Exec on this, should ref and link to supportive scientific papers

20/07/2020, 18:34 - Robin Swann: would a shift from the 31st July by a couple of weeks, get us over the line?

20/07/2020, 19:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Worth a try

20/07/2020, 23:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister forgot to mention earlier. I understand Nolan may be running with a story of a politician attending a GAA game at the weekend contrary to current guidance. I'm reliably informed not from UUP or DUP! Michael

20/07/2020, 23:05 - Robin Swann: so I wasn't seen...

20/07/2020, 23:06 - Dr Michael McBride: ...best to keep wearing that face covering...

22/07/2020, 20:48 - Robin Swann: call from FM proposed date of enforcement of 20th Aug, based on dates of Exec mtgs.

22/07/2020, 21:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Let's bank it. That's a result - very relieved professional. So to be clear take powers and enforcement if required from 20th.

22/07/2020, 21:25 - Robin Swann: yip and now she's away to speak to dFM.

22/07/2020, 21:28 - Dr Michael McBride: Sorry about today - was so committed to getting this over the line as it will make a difference. I appreciate for FM and DUP "mandatory" is a major political ideological step - I don't know how you make these things happen - keep delivering. Thank you. Michael

22/07/2020, 21:45 - Robin Swann: its my charm, wit & sparkling personality...

22/07/2020, 21:45 - Dr Michael McBride: We share common attributes then ...

22/07/2020, 21:47 - Robin Swann: I've a wee job for you, could you touch base with Ronan Glynn on the QT and see if he thinks RoI Government would be up for a 5 Nations mtg on Intl travel, would be helpful to know if they would be open to having the conversation, neither DUP nor SF have a way in, but we have 😊

22/07/2020, 21:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Will do Minister. Chris Whitty very supportive when I suggested this pm but may need some work up and engagement with the 5 CMOs in advance of & prior to seeking Ministerial engagement and support. We have mature established and trusted relationships and we could prepare the ground. You might consider raising with Matt Hancock in confidence to recruit his support.

23/07/2020, 13:52 - Dr Michael McBride: I understand there may still be an attempt to agree face covering paper to get on agenda with date of 20th with reassurance to commitment

23/07/2020, 15:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you free to speak?

23/07/2020, 16:23 - Robin Swann: can we draft LTT for facecoverings on the back of our paper.

23/07/2020, 16:24 - Dr Michael McBride: On it

23/07/2020, 17:00 - Dr Michael McBride: That's the sort of Executive meetings I like - more please.

25/07/2020, 13:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have sent you an email re Spain. We are likely to recommend removing the current exemption probably over the weekend. Will present the very practical considerations you raised on Wednesdays call.

25/07/2020, 13:52 - Robin Swann: National approach better for us, regional approach could set a local precedent.

25/07/2020, 13:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Fully understand as per recent discussions Minister. There may be a public health rationale given islands etc and differing point prevalences.

25/07/2020, 18:09 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

25/07/2020, 18:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes, we have the flights. I have just spoken with Olive. They would have the staff for physical presence to hand out leaflets. Will liaise with airports. Elaine contacting Border Force. Will send through note of actions secured later. Michael

25/07/2020, 22:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister given arrivals from Spain/islands into Dublin and your recent correspondence to Minister Donnelly you may wish to consider a follow up call or communication in relation to Spain & islands in respect of your request for the sharing of passenger

information. I understand there are regular flights to Balearic and Canary island. I understand NI citizens are exploiting this "loophole" as they perceive it. It might appear this is also the case with Portugal. I have advised David that a further press release tomorrow might be required to specifically address. I will ask PHA to follow up with HSE. I raised the general point on Friday last with Ronan Glynn (acting CMO) Michael

26/07/2020, 15:01 - Robin Swann: Hi Robin,

Sorry to disturb you at the weekend: I just got this urgent message from a local GP who may need to fly home from urgently from Spain (Balearics) today. Could you please advise as FCO can't as their advisory only applies to mainland Spain.

Thanks.

Naomi

"Sorry to bother you, looking for some advice and wondering if you can help. I'm a GP from East Belfast and I travelled to Majorca on Wednesday. I'm due to return home next Saturday and obviously would have to return straight to work as there is no way I can possibly quarantine and leave my colleagues short. Does the exemption for 'people providing essential medical care' apply to this situation?

My only other option is to fly home this evening and cut the trip short. Would appreciate any advice ASAP. Thank you and apologies for hassling you on a Sunday!"

26/07/2020, 15:02 - Robin Swann: from Minister Long, my reading is that now Spain & islands are in the RED zone, the exemption doesn't apply?

26/07/2020, 16:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister there is no exemptions for the islands nor is there an exemption from quarantine for HCWs. We couldn't risk a GP infecting colleagues and/or patients as happened previously in England.

26/07/2020, 18:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister looks like FMdFM may plan to leave Spain & Islands holiday disruption with you. May reflect badly on the Executive ultimately if not more proactive along the lines you suggest.

30/07/2020, 15:32 - Robin Swann: maybe want to give Ronan a call, obvious how tomorrows meeting will shape up.

30/07/2020, 16:12 - Dr Michael McBride: We spoke yesterday and agreed not be drawn

31/07/2020, 20:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Aren't you glad you agreed to the C4 interview? Congratulations Minister.

01/08/2020, 10:22 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted>

INQ000371384

01/08/2020, 10:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Do I see

01/08/2020, 10:52 - Dr Michael McBride: So

04/08/2020, 11:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have sent an email with near final form of an urgent letter from Ian and I to David Sterling as Secretariat to the Executive proposing a delay to the open of pubs given indication of community transmission following easing of restrictions Following discussion with you on Friday my approach was to give you distance from the decision as you indicated as predominantly a matter for Ministers Dodds, Weir and the wider Executive. It has been suggested a cover letter from you would add weight? Happy to be advised. Michael

05/08/2020, 20:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister if you are content I will join the Executive meeting tomorrow with Ian to support your papers. I joined a meeting this evening with FMdFM and Junior Ministers. Ian will E-mail you a read out. Michael

05/08/2020, 20:29 - Robin Swann: Content you do, will check emails later.

05/08/2020, 21:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies again for intrusion Declan has text me to indicate Michelle & he happy to support and even stronger position on face coverings if you. Indicated Michelle had previously messaged you. My sense is they all want to be on your side now having miscalled this earlier. I think Arlene is over the line and supportive & her only concerns are re enforcement. M

06/08/2020, 11:56 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

Proposal for Irish Open to hosted in NI was yesterday on call with FMdFM. Late Sept/Oct at Galgorm. Ian and I feel risks can be managed. The event itself would be with full mitigations, including players etc being in a bubble. Galgorm Manor and local hotels to there would be used for accommodation. Four recent events have taken place in UK with mitigations agreed by PHE.

We did not agree to spectators although we said we could discuss a limited number with decision depending on transmission and state of epidemic at time. However accepted spectators may not be possible. Are you content for Ian and I to engage in a supportive approach? Clearly economic and therefore health benefits. I believe the risks can be mitigated. European Tour need an agreement in principle today apparently. Michael

06/08/2020, 12:32 - Robin Swann: 43 Positive cases today - outbreak narrative?

06/08/2020, 12:38 - Dr Michael McBride: Have just asked for % related to current clusters in Newcastle & Castlewellan and how many unlinked as will give an indication if any significant wider community transmission. Will push extremely hard on face coverings and pubs at 2 pm. A wake up call for some of the Executive perhaps. Will send you through latest PHA cluster report by email Minister. Michael

06/08/2020, 12:40 - Robin Swann: International travel from RED countries?

06/08/2020, 13:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Would ensure testing etc prior to travel. As I recall there are exemptions for "elite athletes"

06/08/2020, 13:26 - Robin Swann: and a reduced entourage?

06/08/2020, 13:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister this can be a condition. I understand this was a condition previously applied by PHE. Will confirm. dFM "concerned re NI backdoor perception given

ROI stance” although not much push back when Ian and I indicated we believed the risks could be managed. You might be dining out in the Glagorm very Sunday from now on - joke!!

06/08/2020, 13:47 - Robin Swann: content to support with strong mitigations.

06/08/2020, 15:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I think that’s what I call a result. I am content to stay on if you wish. Might I let Ian go? Perhaps Irish Open will come up under AOB.

06/08/2020, 16:00 - Robin Swann: suprised - pretty muted, esp Edwin & supported by Diane.

Ok to let Ian go.

I'll send the travel amendments as a letter to colleagues, later...

06/08/2020, 16:02 - Robin Swann: Welsh going to announce travel changes tonight rather than wait..

06/08/2020, 16:02 - Dr Michael McBride: It had all been going so well until now. In relation to Edwin and Diane, I think Arlene has had to work hard. Public opinion and media is also in support of your position.

06/08/2020, 16:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Why? I assume politics because can see no immediate need to do this from a public health perspective. It wouldn’t be possible for us to amend the regs I don’t think this quickly as Elaine on leave today.

06/08/2020, 16:05 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

06/08/2020, 16:05 - Robin Swann: Gethin not happy as already leaked to the Daily Mail.

06/08/2020, 16:05 - Robin Swann: Think we stick to the timeline.

06/08/2020, 16:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Agreed. Will likely pay political dividends in due course to stay agreed and aligned.

06/08/2020, 16:24 - Robin Swann: nice dig from the FM...

06/08/2020, 16:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Ice pick

10/08/2020, 10:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Good meeting. Some constructive suggestions.

10/08/2020, 11:20 - Robin Swann: Hotel sector would explode at request it closes at 11:30pm, important it doesn't come from us.

11/08/2020, 13:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, apologies more than a little hacked off by high handed approach by DHSC and no 10. Apparently of back bench political noise in respect of PHE “over reporting” deaths playing into “highest number of deaths in Europe” Michael

11/08/2020, 13:44 - Robin Swann: I think we hold our course.

11/08/2020, 19:58 - Dr Michael McBride: <https://www.thejournal.ie/testing-meat-plants-5173116-Aug2020/>

11/08/2020, 20:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, to be aware I raised this morning with PHA colleagues who will scope numbers etc re meat plants and consider evidence, options and viability of

any such approach. Clearly priority must be care homes and contact tracing capability. Just in case Edwin raises Michael

11/08/2020, 20:03 - Robin Swann: thanks it won't come from Edwin, it'll come from SF & Unions.

11/08/2020, 20:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Forever the protectors of the proletariat - not!

11/08/2020, 21:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, as Ian indicates R will likely fall. Situation remains highly volatile. Suggest we use the opportunity to emphasis what might happen as opposed to what it likely to happen unless we all follow the advice. We need to refocus and recalibrate both the public and I would suggest some Executive colleagues priorities. I also want to use the opportunity of latest figures to ensure PHA is able to respond to all and every eventuality and that analytical capacity, surveillance, rapid response cluster/outbreak teams and information flows are optimal. In my experience with the H1N1 pandemic it is this time when we need to push on twice as hard and redouble efforts. We need some further headroom and to be ready for the upward pressure of schools reopening in coming weeks. Michael

12/08/2020, 21:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, with apologies rate in France rising rapidly. Normal threshold 20 but barring a miracle will exceed within 2-3 days. As of 1700 rate 18.9. Westminster Ministers aware and minded to act. In reality will be tomorrow but there is concerns about delaying announcement impacting on return to school for children and teachers. There may be a request for a Ministerial call tomorrow. Michael

12/08/2020, 21:07 - Robin Swann: Was expecting that.

12/08/2020, 21:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Apparently PM wants to delay to Friday.

12/08/2020, 21:19 - Robin Swann: Welsh or Scots won't hold.

12/08/2020, 21:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Indeed Malta also likely to be added to red list. If you wish I can send through the JBC data from earlier if you haven't received.

12/08/2020, 21:24 - Robin Swann: if you could, thanks,

12/08/2020, 21:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have emailed through. Michael

12/08/2020, 21:30 - Robin Swann: Thanks.

12/08/2020, 21:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Ian and I will attend the Executive if you are content. I understand you are meeting PM. France will be big news and impactful. Depending on timing of 4 Nation call and any decision you will wish to consider handling of any Executive update and timing of advising FMdFM.

13/08/2020, 13:47 - Robin Swann: Executive start put back, can you give update, Minister Mallon wants an indepth discussion on the R paper.

13/08/2020, 14:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, yes happy to do so. Do you wish me to say anything re travel corridors even in general terms given no final decision made as yet. Slightly complicated by email from JBC as of this morning indicating I believe you can share data with Executive Ministers - I haven't opened it yet!

13/08/2020, 16:00 - Robin Swann: Is Executive still going?

13/08/2020, 16:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes. On to public sector pay. Uneventful.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

13/08/2020, 20:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister do you wish me join 9 pm call? M

13/08/2020, 21:01 - Robin Swann: If you wish, just conscious that Mrs McBride will start the timer again..

13/08/2020, 21:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, if Wales or Scotland press we physically couldn't do this tonight now, it would have to be tomorrow with effect from Saturday which was the original schedule. Still unclear on Malta and Holland but the data suggests it would be required. Major operational challenges for Border Force I understand and they need time to gear up. Might be worth asking. M

I&S

13/08/2020, 21:07 - Robin Swann: yeah -

Irrelevant & Sensitive

13/08/2020, 21:08 - Dr Michael McBride: With you all the way! Pay back will be expensive!

15/08/2020, 13:23 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted>

15/08/2020, 16:40 - Robin Swann: Hi, just to let you know I had the opportunity to get the Russian Covid19 vaccination yesterday and can tell you so far there are absolutely no negative side effects. Кто может это прочитать Обожаю Владимира Путина!

15/08/2020, 19:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Very good

15/08/2020, 19:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, trends not good. We could potentially be over 20/100000 end next week. Ian & I meeting Monday to consider/discuss potential options to step back some of the relaxations. Will also engage with Alan Todd as I believe we also need more visibility re enforcement. Michael

15/08/2020, 20:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, just off phone from Ronan Glynn. They had 200 positives yesterday. Now at 22/100k. Their Emergency Committee meeting Monday am. Cabinet to consider recommendations Tuesday pm. Considering universal application of measures adopted for Offaly, Laois, Kildare. He and I will speak again on Monday am. Looks like we are probably a day or so behind them. We will need to build some headroom for schools reopening. Ian and I will develop options; probably household numbers/outdoor numbers & increased enforcement in first instance. Suggest I update you Monday pm. Michael

15/08/2020, 21:12 - Robin Swann: ok thanks, although there will be calls for localised actions, as opposed to entirety, as 1/3 of ours are coming from Mid & East Antrim Council area.

15/08/2020, 21:15 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

15/08/2020, 21:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, appreciate and understood. We will factor in and provide options for your consideration. Michael

15/08/2020, 21:31 - Robin Swann: It has been a line of Declans in the past, although I'm unsure how we could manage it.

15/08/2020, 21:36 - Dr Michael McBride: In ROI they have asked people not to travel outside of counties except for work purposes. My sense is we are probably a couple of days behind ROI & virus behaving the same N/S so in public health & policy terms makes sense to try and align as much as practically possible. Perhaps a call between you and Stephen Donnelly on Monday/Tuesday am. M

15/08/2020, 22:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, if we take cut off as 50/100k for restrictions mid and east Antrim only. I would recommend we consider going down to 30/100k and include Newtonabbey. Will send a strong message. Will work up options on Monday for your consideration & approval for announcement Tuesday with or without an extraordinary Executive. Michael

15/08/2020, 22:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I have suggested to David - subject to your agreement - that we organise a media briefing for Tuesday pm to include yourself, Ian and myself. "Dope on the ropes" time now over. Irrespective of Executive briefings I would suggest we now need to own again and forge ahead. Suggest our messaging at this time needs to be clear irrespective of the politics.

15/08/2020, 23:02 - Robin Swann: Will discuss best time on Monday, its looking like there will be an Assembly Recall over the Alevel result, probably Tues, our msg would get lost.

15/08/2020, 23:05 - Dr Michael McBride: As you advise Minister

18/08/2020, 20:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister this guy NR has played DAERA, PHA and is either incompetent or grossly negligent. DLS and DSO advice being sought this evening. We will take powers to require isolation of all staff and testing under coronavirus act if required. Further discussions between Olive, Lourda, & myself later this evening and again at 8.30 am. If you want a verbal update please call. M

18/08/2020, 21:11 - Robin Swann: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/20/its-a-terrible-way-to-go-for-9-an-hour-fear-at-meat-plant-after-three-deaths-coronavirus>

18/08/2020, 21:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Deeply concerning

20/08/2020, 09:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Looks like we have Cranswick stunned and ready for processing. Re CEO letter - how can the local MP believe it appropriate to be present at the IMT?

20/08/2020, 09:44 - Robin Swann: why was he allowed to be at it?

20/08/2020, 09:45 - Robin Swann: also we can expect TV crews at Cranswick with him making announcement, he did the same with Gallagher & Wrightbus

20/08/2020, 09:47 - Dr Michael McBride: I agree. PHA too accepting in my view risks compromising the process entirely. First I was aware was on reading recent email you forwarded. Will speak to PHA.

20/08/2020, 09:49 - Dr Michael McBride: We can cover at high level at media briefing. Will speak with David to see if we can spike and head off. Could you and Edwin do a piece to camera?

21/08/2020, 00:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I have been advised by a journalist source, unsure of how reliable, that we were briefed against within minutes of press briefing today by "senior politicians" as "exaggerating." I suspect probably from one party in particular. Michael

21/08/2020, 08:28 - Robin Swann: That's why I think it would be helpful today to publish the fuller 'R' paper.

21/08/2020, 23:38 - Dr Michael McBride: Minster, have been in contact with Colin Neill this evening and advised 1st Sept for reopening of wet pubs likely to be pushed back if my advice is accepted by Executive. He fully understands and accepts & was expecting. I have offered to work with his recommendations in correspondence to get pubs opened ASAP and to do joint visits & possible media with himself & Alan Todd to emphasis what is required to protect the public and the enforcement action that will be taken to assure same. Haven't discussed with David, would you wish to be involved? There is a cross Departmental meeting Monday pm to progress Colin's proposals and - Ian and I will join - I will update you thereafter. I am hugely impressed by the responsible leadership of Colin and Hospitality Ulster. M

22/08/2020, 07:28 - Robin Swann: Thanks Michael, apologises for asking on a Sat, will the updated regs be in place for Mon. R

22/08/2020, 15:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes

22/08/2020, 15:08 - Dr Michael McBride: 71 cases on dashboard today. I contacted Alan Todd last night about flouting of guidance in well know bar in South Belfast.

22/08/2020, 15:10 - Robin Swann: 19 MEA & I've had Cllrs on complaining about the actions of the CEO, facilities open no management of social distancing..

8 PSNI officers +ve and Antrim Barrack closed for deep clean.

22/08/2020, 15:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you wish me to liaise with Olive to address.

22/08/2020, 15:14 - Dr Michael McBride: The close down should be being supervised

22/08/2020, 15:15 - Robin Swann: sorry, MEA reference was about Council facilities not Cranswick

22/08/2020, 15:21 - Robin Swann: Cllrs have raised with her directly with Office in copy.

22/08/2020, 15:22 - Dr Michael McBride: I have flagged to Olive to make contact to offer advice/support.

22/08/2020, 15:23 - Robin Swann: have sent you email

22/08/2020, 15:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Many thanks. Have advised Olive. I know who my money is on when Olive phones Anne.

22/08/2020, 15:27 - Robin Swann: https://www.rte.ie/amp/1160673/?__twitter_impression=true

22/08/2020, 15:28 - Robin Swann: "The chief executive officer of the HSE said that *13,000* tests were completed. Paul Reid tweeted that this is "our highest daily number ever".

per head of population, we're ahead of this more than often.

22/08/2020, 15:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Given the effectiveness & efficiency of our testing and contact tracing we are undoubtedly picking up more cases which may have gone undetected.

22/08/2020, 17:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Total positives from Cranswick from test runs today now 17. Olive has spoken the Anne by phone - sports field quiet - reassured will continue to monitor the situation.

23/08/2020, 11:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, just advised by Olive 29 of 51 in first run relate to Cranswick, second run just in 33 positives, she doesn't have details yet of breakdown two more lab runs at 1230 & 3pm. Very busy in CTT, staff staying on later this evening. She will keep me posted.

23/08/2020, 12:04 - Robin Swann: Cranswick on a heavy political lobby over the weekend, directly with politicians & farmers to politicians -

1) why is Cranswick being treated differently to other food processors.

2) those who test negative should be allowed to return to work.

playing on populism & misinformation..

23/08/2020, 12:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Perhaps PHA or we need to be more proactive re messaging of this being a very significant outbreak. I am conscious however of the potential difficult community relations aspects. Would it be helpful if Robert & I jointly did some media?

23/08/2020, 12:12 - Robin Swann: it would, but my info is that Robert & the DCVO who was working on this are now on holiday.

03/09/2020, 21:32 - Robin Swann: <https://t.co/s0hxxmRmNt?ssr=true>

03/09/2020, 21:33 - Robin Swann: Michael, useful information contained in this report, would maybe be useful for Pauline?

03/09/2020, 22:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have shared. Michael

03/09/2020, 22:19 - Dr Michael McBride: **NR** has now shared with **NR**

03/09/2020, 22:20 - Dr Michael McBride: I have also shared the earlier official ONS data which confirmed the same.

11/09/2020, 17:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies in my diary for 5.15 prebrief meeting 5.30

11/09/2020, 17:27 - Robin Swann: no problems, it was an "aren't we all doing very well" meeting....

11/09/2020, 17:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Hmmm - I wish. At least survived another week.

11/09/2020, 18:48 - Robin Swann: Have you had any heads up that the number of tests assigned to our MTUs has been cut back?

11/09/2020, 18:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Without any consultation late today PHA "found out" MTU limited to 60/d each. Escalated complaint re poor communications yet again. Will forward email

11/09/2020, 18:55 - Robin Swann: Scotland getting 90/day

11/09/2020, 18:59 - Dr Michael McBride: I am meeting with Brid Tuesday. Suggest we ramp up Pillar 1 to max out and then some including developing our own on-line portal. Brid engaging with Scotland on their software underdevelopment. Will update you early next week.

11/09/2020, 19:33 - Dr Michael McBride: We need more contingency locally before late Autumn/Winter. We are at risk of: our contact tracing being constrained by late/no engagement in respect of pillar 2 capping; NIDirect being currently inundated with 60% calls related to pillar 2 access & 1000 calls to PHAs two female receptionists on Monday alone. We are fielding multiple queries into PO and this is becoming a major capacity issue for my team when the solution/answers are not within our gift.

14/09/2020, 19:42 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, have sent through key points for 8 pm call with thanks to **NR** M

17/09/2020, 19:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Many rants do work. Message from Suzanne:

Hello Michael

I know that you have had a tough day again today. Just wanted to let you know that I can't attend the meeting tomorrow as I have my main council committee meeting - which is one meeting that I just can possibly move. Sorry.

I think there has been some movement today. Both universities will move to apply precautionary 2 weeks suspensions for anyone breaking Covid rules from Monday while investigations take place. They have written to students tonight / put it on their websites. We have met the landlords to tell them we will apply ASB rules (requiring them to tell us how they will address issues in their houses if there are issues) and written to them asking for lists of all tenant's names. PSNI is putting out more resources immediately and highlighting penalties. We have all agreed new briefings on Covid breach evidence gathering and quicker turnaround in sharing information and action.

We have drafted potential wording to a new regulation which I have sent to Karen and to Nigel McMahon. It would be good to get a quick response to this as this could help prevent the scenes seen the night before last.

The area is much quieter as students will have gone home for the weekend as predicted.

A big issue which remains is what we should be advising students who need to isolate in an HMO situation. It would be great if Ian could help us out with crafting that advice and also what we would best do to stop the spread in the situations where many HMOs show positive tests.

Thank you Michael. Sz"

21/09/2020, 20:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you still holding to be connected?

21/09/2020, 20:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Von can talk!

21/09/2020, 20:33 - Robin Swann: and Matt lets him as he covers so much, doesn't need to answer anything specifically..

21/09/2020, 20:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Thought as much

21/09/2020, 20:42 - Robin Swann: is Gregor gonna try and top him...

21/09/2020, 20:51 - Dr Michael McBride: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

Irrelevant & Sensitive

21/09/2020, 20:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you want to explore agenda for COBR and PM statement etc. to seek alignment in so far as possible? For example will health Ministers attend COBR tomorrow?

21/09/2020, 21:05 - Dr Michael McBride: A meeting to say there was a meeting.

22/09/2020, 14:58 - Robin Swann: See below Robin as discussed regarding Newry...

[22/09, 10:20] Liz Kimmins: Is there any advice for healthcare staff who have family members who need testing? Same issues arising with the online and phone number, sending people to Stranraer, nurse in Daisy Hill can't get her child with a high temp tested and one of the workers doing the building work in ED has a family member with symptoms and can't get a test, yet there's a mobile testing facility right beside the hospital at Newry Leisure Centre

[22/09, 10:21] Liz Kimmins: All being told to self isolate so concerned about impact on staffing levels as well.

Best regards, Colm.

22/09/2020, 14:58 - Robin Swann: above received from Colm Gildernew, can we get him a response, thanks.

22/09/2020, 15:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Noted Minister. Do you wish to see draft response before issue? M

22/09/2020, 19:40 - Dr Michael McBride: What do you want me to indicate if anything

22/09/2020, 21:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have spoken to Karen and **NR** this evening. I believe we have a way forward which is a reasonable interim compromise following this evening's call. As a doctor, not as CMO, suggest you work from home in am and/or clear dairy as much as possible. As you become "older" this week please pace yourself. Currently the demands are unrelenting and this is marathon not a sprint. Important others need you too. **NR** said ok to advise you directly. My job to look out for you. M

22/09/2020, 22:13 - Robin Swann: Thanks, have diary commitments tomorrow that can't be moved or cancelled at short notice, **I&S** Hopefully interim compromise doesn't have presentational or political implications for Dept.

22/09/2020, 22:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister understood. No, DfC will lead. I'm on the case.

02/10/2020, 12:04 - Robin Swann: what does Safe Food do?

02/10/2020, 12:09 - Dr Michael McBride: I told you - apologies - F... all

02/10/2020, 12:10 - Robin Swann: ive got something about-
turkeys/burgers/chocolate/speed reading....

02/10/2020, 12:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister this drivel is a gross waste of your time - time none of us have. 934 positives today. Maybe some artifact and hang over from low numbers yesterday - I hope so if not we are in diff's. Numbers may help with the public messaging.

02/10/2020, 12:24 - Robin Swann: those numbers are bound to push other areas into DC&S levels?

Irrelevant & Sensitive

05/10/2020, 12:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Thank you Minister

05/10/2020, 12:30 - Robin Swann: fuck8ng shower...

05/10/2020, 12:30 - Robin Swann: excuse my typing...

05/10/2020, 12:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Dysfunctional bastards - how will we ever get through this with an enemy within. I have good mind to walk off and leave them to it as no doubt do you - then those that really matter; those whom they seem to have forgotten they represent; really are depending on us.

05/10/2020, 12:35 - Dr Michael McBride: In respect of Conors comments highly likely that UK approach to circuit breakers highly likely in coming weeks.

05/10/2020, 12:42 - Robin Swann: but I thought she was against that...

10/10/2020, 13:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Michelle called largely personal professional advice re family situation

however indicated you had requested meeting tomorrow and her support for firm recommendations from you in terms of interventions.

11/10/2020, 15:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister raging and shouting at the wind and setting up to blame you - either asking more than can be delivered or not preparing or asking earlier enough- which is it?

11/10/2020, 16:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you need me to say more?

16/10/2020, 10:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister Rol in a bad and deteriorating situation. They are keen to issue the joint CMO letter - are you content?

16/10/2020, 10:17 - Robin Swann: after Scallys recent intervention, I think it looks as if we are coming in on his advice, also in media today that taoiseach is to ask FMdFM for a mtg so not sure if your statement reads as bouncing. Also see from Rol papers that NPHET allegedly going to ask for a 6 week circuit breaker.

16/10/2020, 10:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Noted

16/10/2020, 18:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister my apologies for my ventilating of my frustration earlier - thank you for listening. Nothing compared to yours I know. I just worry for those we all serve: the vulnerable and those in the frontline. Guidance live on NIDirect - no sign of regulation yet. Michael

21/10/2020, 18:52 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371386**

21/10/2020, 21:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, for what it's worth I feel you made the right call given others notified. Michael

21/10/2020, 21:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, received a text from dFM asking whether I would be prepared to facilitate a meeting with SF to include dFM, Declan and **NR** I assume word of earlier meeting with DUP MLAs is out hence Jim Wells approach and now this. Happy to be guided by you Minister. Michael

21/10/2020, 21:51 - Robin Swann: would be nervous about the inclusion of **NR**

21/10/2020, 21:52 - Dr Michael McBride: That was my concerns as sounds might be misused in respect of N/S politics. Would there be any merit in my contacting Declan to flag?

21/10/2020, 21:54 - Robin Swann: yes, he would get the nuance.

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/mcdonald-left-health-officials-briefing-after-less-than-an-hour-39649449.html>

21/10/2020, 21:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok. Will arrange to speak with Declan, flag my anxiety and seek assurances etc and revert to you prior to any response if that's ok.

22/10/2020, 13:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Additional shielding advice will issue today and go on NIDirect. No restart as yet.

22/10/2020, 20:16 - Dr Michael McBride: All ok?

22/10/2020, 21:21 - Robin Swann: BBC News - Coronavirus: Arlene Foster says NI contact tracing must be scaled up

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-54646660>

yip - all going well, I feel a coordinated approach coming on - or the tying up of a scape goat....

22/10/2020, 21:23 - Robin Swann:

<https://twitter.com/KennyFarq/status/1319317409136844807?s=08>

22/10/2020, 21:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Arlene merely following Boris's perhaps. Although undoubtedly plays to Edwin and Diane's position that if only contact tracing "worked" it could be life as normal unfortunate alignment with SF. Might be just happenstance?! In any event I will sort. Just need a little time. Re Jason Leitch in Scotland unfortunately he's a media tart and if your court the media you sometimes get dumped. I suspect he and Gregor will compete for CMO post so motivation is complex. Suggested to David Ian and I support you on Wednesday zoom media briefing and we drop our Tuesday. I think it will work well.

22/10/2020, 21:41 - Dr Michael McBride: ...Any way if the going gets tough the potential scape goat can always look for a sacrificial lamb - I think that where I might come in. Will get you that submission through and happy to discuss.

22/10/2020, 22:17 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

22/10/2020, 22:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Though might make you smile from your isolation!

22/10/2020, 22:19 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

22/10/2020, 22:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Well done you. We should also grant the North Pole a travel exemption and ensure Santa doesn't have to quarantine. Can be your Christmas message.

22/10/2020, 22:27 - Dr Michael McBride: PS my wife is hugely impressed.

22/10/2020, 23:08 - Robin Swann: I know they've been busy, but an amendment to the travel regs, giving an exemption to anyone travelling from the North Pole, between the hours of 7pm on the 24th Dec & 7am on the 25th Dec having arrived in North Ireland in a vehicle powered by reindeer..

22/10/2020, 23:12 - Dr Michael McBride: That would do it... let's hold off for nearer the time...

26/10/2020, 20:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, as discussed DFM and Declan requested a meeting with me tomorrow pm. Not clear/confirmed if ML involved as depends on timing. As you suggested I spoke with Declan re my concerns and have been reassured by Declan is strictly confidential and private. Grateful for your thoughts and advice. M

26/10/2020, 20:19 - Robin Swann: if ML is there I'd say no, how would it sit if Tony H. started to brief Michelle & Declan, even if confidential & private, aware they are also looking a private brief from PHA, so obviously they either think I'm holding back or trying to undermine me, again.

26/10/2020, 21:02 - Dr Michael McBride: I haven't responded as yet. I think they already have a source within Tony's office or the wider Department there. I'll confirm re ML in first instance.

27/10/2020, 11:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed voice call

27/10/2020, 19:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister do you wish a read out from call with SF prior to 8pm meeting with FMdFM? M

27/10/2020, 19:01 - Robin Swann: please

27/10/2020, 19:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Happy to take a call any time. When would suit

28/10/2020, 10:41 - Robin Swann: very confidential- I&S

28/10/2020, 10:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Great

29/10/2020, 12:33 - Robin Swann: school of Sammy...

29/10/2020, 12:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Indeed - I feel the need to intervene!?

29/10/2020, 12:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Perhaps Ian on the emergent evidence point to covered in media briefing yesterday. Peter would be well advised to consider the SAGE paper on alternatives to full open to full closure.

29/10/2020, 12:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister can we excuse Ian as he is on leave?

29/10/2020, 12:51 - Robin Swann: certainly, not sure if you need to hold in either, up to you, am sure there is other things you could be at...

29/10/2020, 13:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Peter Weir inviting me to join him Monday am for a PR stunt in school in East Belfast or Bangor around 11 am. I have said yes in principle meaning no. As it happens I have a meeting with you re TTP - saved!

29/10/2020, 13:45 - Dr Michael McBride: Have left

30/10/2020, 11:59 - Dr Michael McBride: How's Gyp behaving? Hope you're keeping well.

<https://www.itv.com/news/2020-10-27/first-trial-at-train-station-for-dogs-that-can-smell-covid-19-in-humans>

30/10/2020, 12:57 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> [Irrelevant image]

30/10/2020, 14:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Looks like you're probably alright then!

30/10/2020, 17:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister further to your email, since Ian and I have removed ourselves from direct engagement with Hospitality Ulster it appears to be the case that DD

and GL relay all and every detail directly. To note CN was aware of the discussion of pubs opening as off licenses within 10 mins of Thursdays Executive.

30/10/2020, 22:23 - Robin Swann: Whitty give you any inside info on talk of national lockdown?

30/10/2020, 22:56 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

Chris left CMO call prematurely this afternoon to attend number 10 meeting. Therefore no read out. My assessment is that prior to Friday 13th November they will call for a national "lockdown" or equivalent. The challenge for the Executive is are we seriously proposing to open pubs and restaurants given Rt and anticipated pressures on the health service on Friday 13th November. My advice as CMO is that hospitality closure needs to be extended to 6 weeks along with other interventions. Your memo to FMdFM articulates these measures.

30/10/2020, 22:58 - Robin Swann: politically - PM calling a 'national' approach that aligns with RoI - would be an easier sell

30/10/2020, 23:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister from an epidemiological perspective I can deliver & describe the potential benefits from such an approach. I can also spin out the cooperation and benefits. You will recognise that RoI play us. We do however need to be more proactive.

01/11/2020, 18:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed group video call

02/11/2020, 11:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister emailing you through the latest ICU position as of this morning.

02/11/2020, 11:07 - Robin Swann: nothing received, did you send them direct or via PO

02/11/2020, 11:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Sorry yes. Resending.

02/11/2020, 11:26 - Robin Swann: would Chris or Patrick say something that TTP is not a silver bullet?

02/11/2020, 11:33 - Dr Michael McBride: If he's asked he will respond.

02/11/2020, 18:40 - Robin Swann: advice for I&S -

"Robin I am sorry to bother you with a personal matter. Please feel free to say no. My wife is pregnant and works in a local primary school. She is unsure whether she should be in work or not. What is the current advice on this. She is only 10 weeks. Thanks in advance"

02/11/2020, 19:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister conscious of other discussions today and such enquires should be directed to occupational health/HR in the school and PHA link to relevant guidance etc. All that said she can go to work. Useful sites: Pregnancy and Coronavirus (CoVID-19) - NHS; RCOG, Coronavirus infection and pregnancy. Michael

03/11/2020, 16:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister some sense and read out that FM may be more flexible than media reports. Not certain how accurate this is. M

03/11/2020, 20:03 - Robin Swann: close 6pm, 2m, no alcohol

03/11/2020, 20:14 - Robin Swann: is there an opening for you and Ian to attend tomorrow

03/11/2020, 20:15 - Dr Michael McBride: I see no benefit if I'm honest. This is going no where. Arlene can't deliver what's needed. That clear.

03/11/2020, 20:16 - Dr Michael McBride: I am meeting with ICU leads tomorrow re reverse triage that the reality

03/11/2020, 20:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Do they need to hear that

03/11/2020, 20:17 - Robin Swann: that was my thought

03/11/2020, 20:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you want to trail here?

03/11/2020, 21:20 - Dr Michael McBride: I'm I in the dog house with Arlene?

03/11/2020, 21:21 - Robin Swann: no, you'd know, I saw her put Andrew McCormick in there once. I may have it totally wrong but I still believe shes on our side.

03/11/2020, 21:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Just when Richard suggested Ian only. No issue. Just keen to realise if my interventions likely to be less effective with FM in which case I'd hold back for a while.

03/11/2020, 21:39 - Robin Swann: no think his thinking is a smaller mtg

04/11/2020, 13:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister can you take a call before 13.45? Michael

04/11/2020, 13:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Michelle to ring you. Line will be "support your position and ask."

04/11/2020, 17:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Is this so much shadow boxing?!

04/11/2020, 17:05 - Robin Swann: seems to be, AF set out her opposition, Colin made noise, Declan confuses...

04/11/2020, 22:40 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I have confidentially emailed Janice and Colin Neill - at risk yes; don't take me to a cattle market - do you an email I can forward you any responses received without compromising you? Michael

04/11/2020, 22:43 - Robin Swann: please PD I spoke to Colin, he needs something to show for them giving 2 weeks - 'a taskforce', I pushed heavily that Justice needed to be in it as they need enforcement..

04/11/2020, 22:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Have sent email from Janice. I think we can agree and deliver this. I pushed this evening on CMO call for mass population daily testing as alternative for "test and release" discussed earlier. Proposal will go to Matt Hancock and his SpAd from Chris as I suggested. I specifically mentioned my pitch for hospitality which was well received. M

04/11/2020, 22:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Chris indicated he should have discussed with Matt by this evening if you wanted to push trial of new technology in the sector.

05/11/2020, 20:41 - Robin Swann: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54818615>

05/11/2020, 20:43 - Dr Michael McBride: News to me

06/11/2020, 07:07 - Robin Swann: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-in-ireland-mink-may-spread-covid-19-farmers-are-warned-pnthl8zq0>

06/11/2020, 16:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Rol may await ECDC paper and rest of Europe approach which if the case could leave our back door open. As of this morning there position was not clear. We will follow up after this call and with PHA re N/S liaison.

06/11/2020, 17:07 - Robin Swann: assume we support all recommendations & our travel regs are updated?

06/11/2020, 17:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes & yes. I personally signed the regs

06/11/2020, 17:18 - Dr Michael McBride: **LPP/LAP**
LPP/LAP am not across the detail. I have sought details of same.

06/11/2020, 17:31 - Dr Michael McBride: effectiveness reduced if Rol don't follow suit on travel.

06/11/2020, 17:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you want me to raise on chat box

06/11/2020, 17:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Thank you

06/11/2020, 17:35 - Robin Swann: can you reinforce in chat

06/11/2020, 17:41 - Robin Swann: Thanks, will probably need a short note to all Executive members to update.

06/11/2020, 17:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Have commissioned same Minister

06/11/2020, 17:58 - Robin Swann: thanks

06/11/2020, 21:13 - Dr Michael McBride: **LPP/LAP**
LPP/LAP

06/11/2020, 21:20 - Dr Michael McBride: **LPP/LAP**
LPP/LAP I will also sign additional regs later tonight requiring mandatory 14 d quarantine of household contacts of returning travellers from Denmark. Further call with PHA and Rol colleagues tomorrow.

06/11/2020, 22:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Memo to Executive colleagues now with you Minister.

06/11/2020, 22:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Kim very tired and needs to sleep so sorry to pressurise. M

07/11/2020, 00:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Additional regs now signed and sealed

10/11/2020, 23:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed group voice call

20/11/2020, 18:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister would you be able to take a short call? M

23/11/2020, 19:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Well done Minister

23/11/2020, 19:16 - Robin Swann: as expected TTP is a unifying target.

24/11/2020, 09:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Lions to Christians beats feeding the crocodiles

27/11/2020, 09:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Think I've worked it out! - ambition + politics = taskforce.

27/11/2020, 12:44 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted>

27/11/2020, 12:45 - Dr Michael McBride: How very true

30/11/2020, 19:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you having connection problems

30/11/2020, 19:34 - Robin Swann: Im on was in the car

30/11/2020, 20:08 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> 

30/11/2020, 20:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Very good

30/11/2020, 20:10 - Robin Swann: some people too much time on their hands...

I&S

30/11/2020, 20:15 - Robin Swann: Arcadia has gone to the wall due to Philip Green..

30/11/2020, 20:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Started long before CoVID ...

01/12/2020, 08:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we just need to discuss approach to 9 am call with FMdFM.

01/12/2020, 19:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Excuse my language what the f was that nonsense about from Michelle

01/12/2020, 19:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Is it just politics

01/12/2020, 19:15 - Robin Swann: I missed it, FM just asked me who called this mtg...

01/12/2020, 19:15 - Robin Swann: yip, she's back in the Chair on Thu...

01/12/2020, 22:42 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have learned that 6.30 am call is to make sure all are up to date. This is for legal reasons to do with US stock market rules and the main purpose of the meeting. M

02/12/2020, 06:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister do you wish to call or consider and discuss later. Issues FMdFM, Assembly Statement probably oral, respective comms teams to develop FAQ etc.media bids. Need to manage expectations and ensure balance in messaging. M

02/12/2020, 06:49 - Robin Swann: Hi, yes, will probably need a written statement to the Assembly out today, "expect delivery as part of UK order and our plan will be to commence initial vaccination program next week"

02/12/2020, 19:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Just wondering if we (Ian and I) shared our advice with you would it be worth a heads up to FMdFM by you (if we shared our advice) and a call joined by Ian and I in the morning prior to the Executive meeting.

02/12/2020, 20:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Spoke to Mark, he thinks we should just leave and perhaps offer a meeting with FMdFM in the am. Thinks wet pubs won't be a big deal - hopes he's right!!!

02/12/2020, 20:26 - Robin Swann: maybe offer separate mtgs in am after paper - FM 1st?

02/12/2020, 20:29 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted>

08/12/2020, 19:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you want us to advise of concerns in advance of Thursday given Fridays

14/12/2020, 15:48 - Dr Michael McBride: 'New variant' of coronavirus identified in UK, health secretary says

<http://news.sky.com/story/new-variant-of-coronavirus-identified-in-uk-health-secretary-says-12161416>

14/12/2020, 15:56 - Robin Swann: Can we draft a note to the Exec & Committee

14/12/2020, 16:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Will do

15/12/2020, 19:32 - Robin Swann: so now your contributions are "refreshing"..

15/12/2020, 19:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Being set up as ever

17/12/2020, 23:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies for Sky approach for early am.

I&S

I&S

17/12/2020, 23:17 - Dr Michael McBride: I owe you. Thank you.

18/12/2020, 11:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Have you and email with latest vaccine update as of last night

18/12/2020, 11:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Leo has changed his tune!

18/12/2020, 11:32 - Robin Swann: yes, I just get a feeling, they are keeping something back, interesting comment about where we maybe in the New Year.

18/12/2020, 11:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Can't be trusted

18/12/2020, 13:57 - Robin Swann: take it gyms are closed completely

18/12/2020, 13:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes

18/12/2020, 21:43 - Dr Michael McBride: This message was deleted

18/12/2020, 21:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, submission en route 4 isolates of new SE England now isolated in NI. Worryingly all in HCWs or relatives with potential implications for nosocomial outbreaks. Spreading very rapidly in London and SE. No information as yet re implications re vaccine roll out. I suspect "lockdown" similar to ours may come sooner than later in England. CMO call at 10pm. I understand CDL call with FMs dFMs at this time also. Happy to update after CMO call. You couldn't make it up - 2 steps forward, 1 back.

18/12/2020, 22:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Just off CMO call. No Whitehall decision or 4 nation meeting likely this side of Monday. Ministers there still considering options. I advised we need a UK wide lockdown until vaccine deployed. This virus likely to be up to 60% more transmissible. Schools will very much need to be on the table in NI again. Happy to update over weekend if any further information. Michael

18/12/2020, 22:29 - Robin Swann: Thanks, my read of SUB is that 4 isolates in NI is still to be confirmed as VUI-202012/01, but suspected to be?

18/12/2020, 22:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes. More likely than not and my view is will be confirmed. Will be helpful in changing the narrative in respect of public compliance behaviours and schools: "new COVID variant runs amok"

19/12/2020, 16:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

Likely questions at 5pm

1. Is variant here - yes, more likely than not and should behave as such.
2. Should we bring forward restrictions - political decision, finally balanced given other consideration, from a purely public health perspective yes.
3. Should we limit travel from UK. Policy decision, common travel area etc. Advise people to stay local unless absolutely necessary.
4. Christmas plans - if you are meeting, please reconsider the risks and if you decide to proceed with plans keep smaller, shorter, and closer.
5. CEV - all to move to work from home and to be very cautious.
6. Schools position will need to be revisited. We will engage with DE officials

Do we need a Pre-call

19/12/2020, 16:36 - Robin Swann: just confirmed we have 4 positive cases which have shown "an unusual test profile" genomic sequencing being completed but will take time, but still nothing confirmed, samples have been sent to PHE & Imperial College.

19/12/2020, 16:36 - Robin Swann: answer I gave them to Q1 earlier.

19/12/2020, 16:37 - Robin Swann: a precall would be useful

19/12/2020, 16:38 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you wish Ian and Naresh to join and I'll ask Kim to set up.

19/12/2020, 16:38 - Robin Swann: please

19/12/2020, 20:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I am very cautious about you be linked to up to 5 days at Christmas with FMdFM. This is not a sustainable position with cases likely to increase and this variant in circulation. My own view is that they either keep ahead of this and change the advice or are forced to. For those already home it's a different matter. For those planning time to rethink. M

19/12/2020, 23:38 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister your letter re enforcement 26th-2nd may best be redirected to the new Executive Taskforce for urgent action as Executive discussion is unlikely to conclude anything in timeframe required. What do you think?

19/12/2020, 23:42 - Robin Swann: yeah, I've just ask Kim to hold it so I can have a fresh look at it tomorrow.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

19/12/2020, 23:46 - Dr Michael McBride:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

20/12/2020, 18:34 - Robin Swann: Dfm wants to use public health act 1967 to stop travel between GB and NI - will be asking you and officials for your view. Be aware

21/12/2020, 22:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Can someone return me to anywhere else but here!

22/12/2020, 14:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Freedom of movements of people and goods bwt Denmark and within common travel areas have very different impacts on trade/travel/ supply

24/12/2020, 09:23 - Robin Swann: Hi, there was a message agreed between PM & FMs last week that was signed off by CMOs that didn't go, can you get me a copy of the text, maybe try and issue it today from 4 Health Ministers, thanks

24/12/2020, 10:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I can't recall. What did it relate to specifically?

24/12/2020, 10:30 - Robin Swann: I think it was telling everyone to be careful follow guidance, social distancing etc. I hadn't seen it but FM had mentioned it and that they didn't release at the end due to dFM and political concerns.

24/12/2020, 11:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have checked. There was discussion for a CMO letter, which as a group CMOs were not in favour of. I felt the timing was then wrong given reduction in Christmas bubbling etc. DHSC not sure it was ever drafted.

24/12/2020, 11:33 - Robin Swann: ok thanks.

24/12/2020, 11:52 - Dr Michael McBride: If Health Ministers minded to tweet or communicate something perhaps you might suggest: "2020 has been a year of immense sacrifice, service and solidarity. May we take this opportunity to say thank you to those who have given so much to whom we owe so much. Please keep yourself and those that matter to you safe especially over Christmas and protect our NHS by carefully following all the advice. May you have a peaceful and secure Christmas."

28/12/2020, 09:02 - Robin Swann: Apologises for disturbing, is there any accuracy to BelTel front page story, that GPs already have stock of vaccines?

28/12/2020, 09:15 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, no it's still in movianto as it hadn't been approved yet. We won't allocate until it's approved.

28/12/2020, 09:21 - Robin Swann: https://amp.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus/gp-surgeries-given-supplies-of-astrazeneca-workhorse-vaccine-ahead-of-its-approval-39904989.html?__twitter_impression=true

28/12/2020, 17:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, confidential FYI only. Complex cross jurisdictional outbreak following wedding. PHA liaising with Health Protection Lancashire. Summary:

- Wedding held 23rd Dec with 31 guests, bride, groom
- 8 working - beautician, hairdresser, celebrant, photographer, band (4 people), plus hotel staff (number to be established)
- Held in Rabbit Hotel, part of Galgorm group.

- 2 rooms - service in first, meal and band / dancing in 2nd, Perspex screens for band members, no mixing with wider hotel members
- around half guests live in Scotland and have been identified through HP Lanackshire
- 1st case onset 24th Dec
- overall AR 44% (18 /41) not including 3 previously positive cases
- 52% (17/33) AR amongst guests
- guests consist of household groupings and those who travelled together from Scotland

Actions:

- all guests and staff working at wedding have been advised to self isolate for 10 days from 23rd Dec
- Guests via bridal party - email sent to forward on to guests
- Staff being followed up by phone by CTS
- Collate line list of cases for info

Will keep you posted as your counterpart may raise. Michael

28/12/2020, 18:03 - Robin Swann: AR?

28/12/2020, 18:04 - Robin Swann: where does 31 guests at a wedding sit with Regs on the 23rd?

28/12/2020, 18:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Sorry AR = Attributable Risk. $AR\% = AR / risk(incidence) \text{ in exposed} \times 100\%$

28/12/2020, 18:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, in respect of the regulations at the time these were venue specific following a risk assessment so no limit. In respect of live music in a licensed premises this was prohibited and therefore a breach.

Family have been cooperative notifying all guests before TTP made contact.

Separately just wanted to alert you to 3 cases reported yesterday linked to Radox Antrim in total this is now 12 cases linked to Radox. PHA Health Protection will undertake a full HP assessment tomorrow and advice of any further action recommended or escalation required. On receipt we will advise you of any action and potential implications.

29/12/2020, 17:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I will be participating in a UK CMO call at 9 pm tonight to review the data and come to an agreed position in respect to advice to Ministers on UK vaccine strategy in terms of dosing interval. I believe the plan is for Ministers to then consider this advice along with MHRA opinion in the morning with a view to confirming. We try as best we can to turnaround a detailed submission however due to non disclosure agreements which have delayed

the information being shared earlier with us this will be a challenge. **NR** on standby and I will forward the additional information when I am updated later. Has a time for a call between Ministers been agreed as yet? M

29/12/2020, 17:35 - Robin Swann: latest was 12:30 tomorrow

29/12/2020, 17:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok. A suggestion on JBC call which has just finished that may be earlier. Less clear now if they have decoupled as you had previously recommended.

29/12/2020, 17:59 - Robin Swann: Will be challenging if CMO and MRHA advice differs, also raised on Ministers call that Pfizers reaction and other nations analysis will prove difficult from a Comms point if there is a difference in how the same vaccine is deployed.

29/12/2020, 18:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Agreed. My sense is England have decided and will seek to railroad this through. The lack of willingness to share data earlier and to rush it at 9 pm tonight to be decided in a 30 call is a little concerning.

29/12/2020, 20:29 - Robin Swann: at your mtg tonight, could you inquire about teaching/education staff being prioritised for vaccine, there is a political ask building & it will be part of conversation on moving on schools, I'm still adamant we stick to JCVI, but to be able to say we have raised.

29/12/2020, 20:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Will do.

29/12/2020, 23:36 - Robin Swann: apologises for late msg, anything significant from CMO call?

29/12/2020, 23:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Just off call. Working on agreed statement for your call in am. I can send you working draft for consideration subjects agreement or give a verbal update as you wish. In the end felt best given further data and MHRA/JCVI approval and advice to keep both announcements coupled. Not the easiest or shortest of calls. A frank exchange of views I think is the term!

29/12/2020, 23:42 - Robin Swann: you ok for a call?

29/12/2020, 23:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes of course

30/12/2020, 06:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Surely it's about making a staff on the 4th will also be a challenge for us. A political call. Need to see indicate supply line as you request for the logistics and planning around 2nd dose.

30/12/2020, 06:41 - Robin Swann: **I&S**

30/12/2020, 06:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister will get the team working on a rescheduled vaccination profile and factor any additional information on supply//delivery you requested. I am attracted to the before 4th January/after for 2nd dose approach although arbitrary. There will be some push back however strong case for greater good.

30/12/2020, 06:57 - Robin Swann: The before 4th Jan line for 2nd line is an easier "sell" than just telling people you aren't getting the 2nd dose we told you you would. Also it would be useful to draft the basics up into a written statement, Assembly recalled today on Brexit tomorrow on Education, want to avoid recalls or urgent orals on this as much as possible.

30/12/2020, 20:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Richard mentioned early and I forgot. Re dFM's in flap re case numbers & emergency meeting of CoVID Taskforce, dFM asking re further week of curfew. Ian and my assessment probably in itself limited benefit although would send a message,

Richard is concerned will spark political fight with DUP . What do you think? Ian and I content to reflect on further pending your views.

30/12/2020, 21:04 - Robin Swann: Rather than the specific issue, dFM seems to see iHOCs and the Taskforce as an avenue to access you & Ian, rather than raising it directly with me or at an Executive, so will wait to see what of those avenues she wants to pursue this issue.

31/12/2020, 08:59 - Dr Michael McBride: I believe R said that dFM had mentioned had tried phoning you so may relate as much to the missed calls you had from dFM. R advised iHOCs if you weren't able to respond immediately to dFM it was because you were very busy doing something else COVID related. To confirm any advice Ian or I are to provide will be directed through you Minister. I had meant to relay on our vaccine call but simply forgot. Apologies.

31/12/2020, 23:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, may I take this opportunity to wish you and family a happy and prosperous 2021. NI and all we serve owe you a debt of gratitude that most will never fully understand. Thank you for your leadership, forbearance and patience, encouragement and support, listening and challenging and all that I will never fully understand or know that you both deflected, absorbed and protected me from so that I could fulfill my responsibilities to you and the population of NI. Thank you. I plan to enjoy a glass of the "Quiet Man" at midnight. My brother who is in the trade has now provided the history and background. As you indicated, a lot of thought went into the gift and I am genuinely deeply appreciative.

04/01/2021, 18:53 - Dr Michael McBride: You can see where DK is heading

04/01/2021, 18:53 - Robin Swann: not really, had switched off...

04/01/2021, 18:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Coordinated vaccine, testing, restriction plan

04/01/2021, 18:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Essentially a play for the COVID Taskforce to lead on vaccines

04/01/2021, 19:09 - Robin Swann: Evening.

As part of the PM's announcement this evening we are going to set out a goal for aiming to offer all JCVI cohorts 1-4 a jab by mid Feb. Hope this doesn't cause any problems - it is within the trajectory our SROs are expecting and consistent with what has been said publicly too.

Matt

04/01/2021, 19:27 - Dr Michael McBride: CEV letters have issued/issuing. The CEV group is meeting tomorrow hopefully with DfC representative. Last communication from them indicated they would not be standing up food parcels at this juncture. We can look at further support in light of discussions this evening. However Covid community helpline is operating which provides advice on benefits, access to food well-being resources etc. We not this time advising against exercise, but work from home and can outside for exercise. To avoid shops and pharmacies if all possible with support from families and friends etc.

05/01/2021, 08:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed group voice call

05/01/2021, 18:06 - Dr Michael McBride: You will announcing pharmacists admin's flu vaccine to over 50-64 from tomorrow

05/01/2021, 18:06 - Dr Michael McBride: 15 min observation at present as new vaccines

05/01/2021, 18:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Are you content we leave?

05/01/2021, 18:52 - Robin Swann: sure - think you've been kick off anyway.

05/01/2021, 18:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Still here

05/01/2021, 18:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Leaving now

05/01/2021, 18:52 - Robin Swann: go, for God sake, go...

06/01/2021, 17:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister is this wise. May backfire

06/01/2021, 17:34 - Dr Michael McBride: We will be held to it

06/01/2021, 17:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Either we all publish or none I would suggest

07/01/2021, 21:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister in strictest confidence & not in public domain further increasing numbers of new variant in Rol. They also believe they have isolated 3 cases of the SA African variant 2 in West 1 in Dublin all returning travellers. They believe over all case numbers may have peaked and be on the down turn. We are due to meet at 10 am which unfortunately coincides with the Executive if there is agreement on agenda and start time which may not be that likely. M

07/01/2021, 21:22 - Robin Swann: thanks, need to push 10day isolation for all entering NI from GB or Rol

07/01/2021, 21:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have actioned via PHA and will get on to DG re social media etc.

08/01/2021, 09:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have asked **NR** to send through Exec paper from 17th which may be useful re secondary care pressures. Also seeking TEO paper in which Ian and my advice advising against 2 week relations pre Xmas was reflected. Apart from AQE, my sense is "health service underprepared" and not vaccinating quickly enough may be lines of attack.

08/01/2021, 10:54 - Robin Swann: do you want to mention SA variant in Rol - confidentiality to the Executive of course...

08/01/2021, 10:55 - Dr Michael McBride: It will leak ... Tony shared in confidence! I could speculate?

08/01/2021, 10:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Staff as of 6/1: 491 due to CoVID, 148 nursing & midwifery. 704 self isolation, 230 nursing and midwifery.

08/01/2021, 10:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Long COVID: you directed HSCB to develop a specific multidisciplinary service in line with NICE guidelines.

08/01/2021, 14:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed voice call

14/01/2021, 10:33 - Dr Michael McBride: 114, 073 doses adm. 97% care homes now vaccinated 72% 2nd

14/01/2021, 11:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Scotland and I proposed such an approach to international travel last night at CMO call. Clearly the approach at present is not responsive enough or

comprehensive enough. Chris pushed back. A matter for all Ministers as clearly significant other considerations other than public health implications.

14/01/2021, 11:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Interesting about turn from last night. I indicated I felt CMO were being “complicit in political dithering and slithering of UK government” didn’t go down well.

14/01/2021, 12:43 - Robin Swann: can you also update on prevalence of new variant in NI today

14/01/2021, 12:49 - Dr Michael McBride: Don’t have the data as yet either later this or next

14/01/2021, 12:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed voice call

14/01/2021, 13:00 - Dr Michael McBride: We need to get this into public domain before it leaks out from Executive or elsewhere and away from IAD

14/01/2021, 13:00 - Robin Swann: yip

14/01/2021, 13:00 - Robin Swann: put it on our website linked to a tweet?

14/01/2021, 13:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok

14/01/2021, 13:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Too much information sharing potentially

14/01/2021, 13:55 - Robin Swann: have we an indication as to when we can introduce pre-departure testing?

15/01/2021, 07:42 - Robin Swann: msg from Ian late last night...

Irrelevant & Sensitive

15/01/2021, 07:56 - Dr Michael McBride:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

15/01/2021, 15:27 - Dr Michael McBride:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

15/01/2021, 16:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister if all call fully supportive of paper and proposals.
M

15/01/2021, 16:51 - Robin Swann: Sorry just picking these up.

21/01/2021, 11:38 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister annex B in process terms setting aside the politics I would support.

21/01/2021, 14:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Have just been contacted by RoI to arrange a workshop with there contractor on PLF so may be moving

26/01/2021, 10:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister you cannot be bounced into this

26/01/2021, 10:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Level of risk is not as presented by Peter

26/01/2021, 11:01 - Robin Swann: our difficulty is level of back office we have vaccinated where the same arguments could be made.

26/01/2021, 11:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Recognised. If we can agree a a very tight definition eg: "teachers and support staff who have regular exposure to group of extremely vulnerable children (eg with "severe neurological disability") providing personal care (over and above routine processes of feeding washing toileting). Something similar to Wales and direction of travel in Scotland. Emphasis is on protecting vulnerable children. Just need to ensure we don't undermine the low risk to children generally including some with underlying problems. Eligibility needs to be tight.

26/01/2021, 22:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Lisa Smyth article scandalous in the circumstances. What spurious association or worse still allegation is she making? Letter to editor, retraction and apology in relation to press complaints and Ofcom.

27/01/2021, 17:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister not being allowed in

27/01/2021, 23:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister is has been drawn to my attention announcement of student bursaries today did not include healthcare science students not; physiological sciences students from UU have been in placements (respiratory, cardiac, and possibly neuro). On checking with UU I understand students are aware and tweeting you. Do you wish me to flag to policy colleagues to see if can be added. Not sure of numbers and hence additionality.

27/01/2021, 23:12 - Robin Swann: Sure I had alerted Jenny who was looking at it.

27/01/2021, 23:13 - Robin Swann: hearing SF will vote to vaccinate special school teachers.

27/01/2021, 23:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, so much for following the science and public health advice. So headline: "Executive Ministers vote to overrule JCVI recommendations to protect those most at risk of severe disease and death."

27/01/2021, 23:18 - Dr Michael McBride: We might as well all give up now if this sort of facile populist approach is to be adopted. How can any of possibly fulfil our responsibilities in such circumstances. It's frankly embarrassing.

27/01/2021, 23:25 - Robin Swann: I take it Weir has completely disregarded an option on an agreed definition that we could use?

27/01/2021, 23:27 - Dr Michael McBride: As of late this evening we have it ready to go and tactically I was going to suggest we send early in the morning along with, but separate to your response to the DE Executive Paper which I forwarded a email draft of to Kim and Mark earlier. What do you think?

27/01/2021, 23:28 - Dr Michael McBride: Paper by ONS I mentioned on Tuesday at Executive and in discussion with Min Weir. Teachers are not at increased risk:

Michael

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19relateddeathsbyoccupationenglandandwales/deathsregisteredbetween9marchand28december2020>

27/01/2021, 23:30 - Robin Swann: sounds like a plan get it to him early, copied to all Ministers.

Its not about saving lives for them, its about as he kept saying 'confidence building' in a sector where he has lost the confidence of.

27/01/2021, 23:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Draft which I propose we top and tail in the am with preface indicating your proactive offer of engagement, subsequent meeting and what you (and I) understood had been agreed in principle -until he moved the goal posts:

Staff eligible for vaccination must be providing regular care for at risk child or children as part of a multidisciplinary team, where each child receives a planned package of care tailored to their individual needs.

The children receiving this care are likely to be in one of the existing JCVI prioritised groups for receiving the vaccine as a priority because they are vulnerable themselves.

The children and young people who require this kind of daily support are themselves much more vulnerable to infection with complex chronic conditions or disabilities, and also may require repeated daily care such as tracheostomy tube care, airway suction, repositioning, full toileting support and care interventions such as physiotherapy. This is a much higher level of care and susceptibility than children typically require with care or toileting, usually at younger ages."

27/01/2021, 23:38 - Robin Swann: looks ok with me.

28/01/2021, 00:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok. Have prepared draft memo for your consideration in am and have back copied draft to PO. M

28/01/2021, 10:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister tried to reach Mark are you content I seek advice from Neil Jackson on a procedural matter eg an executive minister bringing to the executive matters which are another ministers responsibility?

28/01/2021, 10:50 - Robin Swann: sure

28/01/2021, 13:41 - Dr Michael McBride: May have overreacted to Conor apologies

28/01/2021, 13:42 - Robin Swann: into relm of politics..

28/01/2021, 13:43 - Dr Michael McBride: It's too important for that though and I don't mean any slight on inference on the importance of politics

28/01/2021, 14:20 - Dr Michael McBride: This is not a matter for the Executive

28/01/2021, 14:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Needs to consider definition of close contact and can't amend an Executive paper on the hood

28/01/2021, 19:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you free for a short call re special schools - 5 mins max

29/01/2021, 08:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed group voice call

03/02/2021, 20:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Jennifer very pleased to receive the message and will pass on. It will mean a lot to the team. Thank you.

04/02/2021, 12:03 - Dr Michael McBride: The answer in CAH is to get transmission down in the areas

07/02/2021, 14:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have approached Jennifer and she's responded and will look into. M

07/02/2021, 15:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister update now provided to **NR** I understand so should be updated shortly. M

07/02/2021, 15:09 - Robin Swann: Thanks, just we need every dose we can get, low GP numbers for yesterday and probably be repeated today.

07/02/2021, 15:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I fully understand. I agree. We can discuss tomorrow when we meet.

10/02/2021, 17:24 - Dr Michael McBride: I see no benefit in publishing. It's their problem. Will become ours if they do publish and we don't

10/02/2021, 17:25 - Dr Michael McBride: All just politics

10/02/2021, 21:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Re Minister Weir's comments: it's not a question of supporting or not its evidence and JCVI guidance on priorities for vaccination to prevent severe disease and death. Had you not supported and agreed that the approach was consistent with JCVI recommendations it wouldn't have happened. Executive has been consistent that it will be guided by the science and the public health advice!!!

10/02/2021, 21:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, I assume you will wish Declan to present R paper slides at Executive tomorrow. If he could again leave immediately thereafter due to other commitments that would be much appreciated. M

10/02/2021, 21:19 - Robin Swann: Yes, please

10/02/2021, 21:19 - Dr Michael McBride: Done

11/02/2021, 11:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister is it ok for Declan to leave? M

11/02/2021, 12:10 - Robin Swann: sure

11/02/2021, 12:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Many thanks

11/02/2021, 16:35 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371388**

11/02/2021, 16:37 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371389**

12/02/2021, 15:04 - Dr Michael McBride: You will be FM - if you changed party!!!

12/02/2021, 15:10 - Dr Michael McBride: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

All prep etc for papers for next

week: modelling and review of regs in hand. Happy to discuss. Michael

20/02/2021, 11:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, may I update you in respect of a developing issue around 3pm? Establishing details at present. Michael

20/02/2021, 11:53 - Robin Swann: certainly, but what is the basis

20/02/2021, 11:56 - Dr Michael McBride: One isolate of SA variant confirmed BT15. No travel history. 71 yr old female. IMT meeting to advise of response plan. I don't have full details at present but happy to update now or later after IMT around 3pm. Michael

20/02/2021, 13:20 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted> **awaiting**

20/02/2021, 13:21 - Dr Michael McBride: At the Ulster today. Centres all at full tilt. M

20/02/2021, 16:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you free for a call

21/02/2021, 14:39 - Dr Michael McBride: No significant developments re SA variant. Will forward written update next hour or so. "Doctor Lockdown" off to walk the dogs.

24/02/2021, 17:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Back on message? I find this schizophrenic approach hard to call.

25/02/2021, 13:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just to advise that on testing on schools the PHA paper in the submission you cleared yesterday has not been shared with EA and DE.

"Active planning of extended programme of testing underway building on the pilot in Limavady before Christmas and testing in special schools."

25/02/2021, 14:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Is she going to press this full way at this time or allow to be continued off line?

04/03/2021, 12:53 - Robin Swann: hope Declan can answer this as I don't actually understand it...

04/03/2021, 12:54 - Dr Michael McBride: He can.

04/03/2021, 12:54 - Dr Michael McBride: I see Diane is now going to open it all up!

04/03/2021, 12:56 - Robin Swann: yip

04/03/2021, 13:00 - Dr Michael McBride: ??????!!

04/03/2021, 13:07 - Dr Michael McBride: That's clear - enjoy the workshop

04/03/2021, 13:08 - Dr Michael McBride: I hope there's pizza deliver

18/03/2021, 11:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister can you take a call? Michael

22/03/2021, 19:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Imagine if we had ROI data layered on top.

23/03/2021, 18:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just been advised by BHSCT having checked with SEHSCT it was AZ individual received and NOT Pfizer. MHRA have informed. Michael

23/03/2021, 19:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Oh dear sign of times to come on the politics

23/03/2021, 19:25 - Robin Swann:for the next 6 weeks, campaign for real starts tomorrow night...

23/03/2021, 19:26 - Dr Michael McBride: And CDL said that with a straight face!

23/03/2021, 19:51 - Robin Swann: for Thu Exec - Diane will be asking about effect of vaccines on age groups, there are a couple of graphs/charts on the IAD dashboard that could be presented or added to the R-paper?

23/03/2021, 20:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we have data on Care Homes (not yet in publishable format) in respect of (as I recall 4 and 7 fold decrease in mortality at d14 & d28. Asked today for R paper in future to consider cases in over 50s to 60s in addition to over 60s. Will get something organised. Assuming you have a DUP friend or two?!

25/03/2021, 08:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister got bounced on GMU on abortion. I think I said nothing other than stating the factual position. M

26/03/2021, 10:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

1. Rol agreed to review of MOU

2. Agreed on joint message from DCMO there & myself to avoid cross boarder travel over Easter.

3. With return of schools there & here on 12th suggested a work jointly on a "work from home" if you can. Would fit with proposal you secured to move to stay local but reminding everyone to work from home if they can. Happy to discuss. From a public health perspective I would be supportive. Michael

26/03/2021, 12:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister might I give you a call after the NSMC

26/03/2021, 12:50 - Robin Swann: sure

30/03/2021, 17:37 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Ian offering to come back to support you at Executive from this Thursday. You will wish to consider. Apparently Karen Pearson texted him earlier to see if he was back?! Michael

31/03/2021, 17:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, do you wish Ian to attend Executive and talk to slides and the R paper? He is happy to do so. Happy to chat after the 4 Nation call. Michael

31/03/2021, 17:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Lourda, Naresh and I dialling into 4 nation Ministerial call & will report back. Hope you're ok after the vaccine?

31/03/2021, 18:15 - Robin Swann: Happy enough that he does.

31/03/2021, 19:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Much appreciated. Matt Hancock asking after you post vaccine. Lot of concern re what MHRA may or may not say but no intelligence - also raised on CDL call by FM Scotland. I meet with Trust MDs today to ensure awareness of "professional" guidance.

01/04/2021, 10:48 - Robin Swann: Arlene's welcome to Ian, entirely genuine.

01/04/2021, 11:09 - Dr Michael McBride: It will have been very much appreciated

01/04/2021, 11:52 - Dr Michael McBride: You look totally hacked off

01/04/2021, 16:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies Minister for bouncing you a last minute appeal from Liz in discussion with Richard to lightened the work load. Happy to discuss

01/04/2021, 18:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Can update you re MHRA JCVI if suits.

01/04/2021, 18:59 - Dr Michael McBride: MHRA, JCVI statement to Tuesday. Hold lines or bland lines if required in interim

1. There is a signal not strong:3/1million. Causality not proven.

2. 60 cases total

3. CHM who advise MHRA intend to professional letter and all data next week - maximum transparency.
4. JCVI over all risk benefit positive in over 40s and probably over 30s.
5. Will recommend a review of further data before moving done age bands especially younger age.
6. Decided against anything in advance of bank holiday weekend as would smack unnecessarily of panic.

07/04/2021, 18:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister apologies for the intrusion further to discussions earlier re relaxations, we have as of this evening just received 14 proposals (DfE, DfC, DAERA & TEO) for advice from Ian and myself CMO/and our input (via you) to TEO by COP next Monday. Some proposed from 23rd April others proposed from early-mid May. Ian and I will consider and try and turnaround for your consideration ASAP. Do you wish to see at this stage in which case I will copy to you only so you are aware? Alternatively we can probably get with our assessment to you on Friday. Both bundles to be considered at next Thursdays Executive. M

07/04/2021, 18:19 - Robin Swann: If you could send copies, that would be appreciated, thanks.

07/04/2021, 18:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Sent by email Minister

07/04/2021, 18:21 - Robin Swann: thanks

09/04/2021, 15:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister ROI very keen to issue the joint NI/ROI CMO/dCMO statement. Would you be content if we also drafted something from you and Minister Weir in addition? Michael

14/04/2021, 20:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister you were again correct (again) regarding review of regs Executive paper. 16th March doesn't seem 4 weeks ago. Now with **NR** and PO for your consideration. M

15/04/2021, 15:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Diane briefing the sector?

15/04/2021, 15:03 - Robin Swann: Yep

22/04/2021, 21:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, meeting re BT48 chaired by PHA & HSE N/W demonstrated little initiative from Councils other than describing some of the challenges and requests for yet more data. Sense is they are conflicted bwt opening up/economic recovery v's control of COVID and fail to see the connection in terms of sustainable reopening as discussed at the Executive. Growing realisation among some at NIEPG that there is no strategic objective to these meetings and Council CEO merely turn up, not briefed by their teams with no sense of ownership or accountability for actions. In fact quite the opposite it's seems all about what DOH and PHA are doing as opposed to what Councils can do to assist. This needs to be flipped. Building on Ian and my letter to the Adherence Group I am proposing that I write to NIEPG in similar terms and if you are agreeable that you write to DfC Minister following on from JM Kearney's comments and your response at the Executive. I also think we need to consider upping the ante to get traction and get this under control or easements in Derry & Strabane might be in jeopardy. Happy to front this. The situation in Donegal/Derry&Strabane will only worsen over the summer with holidaymakers and anti vaccine movement there. Happy to share drafts and discuss further. M

22/04/2021, 22:09 - Robin Swann: Content to proceed as above, as earlier this week this confirms my intel that the council line was "what is Health going to do to get this under control", maybe a soft

reach out to JM Kearney- to build on his stance today, considering he hasn't spoken for a few months?

22/04/2021, 22:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, are you content I try a WhatsApp to JM Kearney in first instance. He seems to get it or at least someone briefing him does. If so I will advise of any response in advance of any further engagement. He may be able to influence Deirdre to lead. I don't understand local council politics however I anticipate respective approaches will be dependent on and determined by majority party influence. The truth is as discussed today is that "safer, sustainable and economically viable" reopening is the objective and there is no alternative.

22/04/2021, 22:21 - Robin Swann: Content you make the approach.

22/04/2021, 22:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok will do and will keep you posted

22/04/2021, 22:25 - Dr Michael McBride: Just to advise that very late this evening I was asked was I content to exclude children under 12 from 6 from 2 in outdoor hospitality as not discussed at Executive and unclear. I indicated that as advised before and considered by you I was content from a public health and scientific perspective.

22/04/2021, 22:28 - Robin Swann: Does this not establish an inconsistency with households where we had maintained that children under 12 were still to be counted?

22/04/2021, 22:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes if does. It does however reflect the previous position. As you will recall from previous discussions had we proceeded to include I anticipate we would have been asked to amend almost immediately. The distinction and context for any inconsistency is that hospitality environments are monitored and more controlled, household setting much less so. Do you wish me to ask that this is revisited? It arose very late this evening my apologies. Michael

22/04/2021, 22:57 - Robin Swann: I would be concerned that the decision has been made at this late stage, is there a formal request from ECT in the system, or where did request originate from, as I'm conscious that iHoCs indicated earlier that Colin Neill calls her almost every other day. Prefer to discuss in the morning.

29/04/2021, 12:26 - Robin Swann: I am more of a fan/convert to the benefit of the ECT - 8 months ago this would have been us at the receiving end.

29/04/2021, 12:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Agreed. Any then Ian and I dragged into more meetings with Colin Neil and Glyn Roberts. While ECT achieves and adds nothing it is a useful foil and smoke screen. Wash my mouth out - forgot they recommended the presentation on NI SMART testing last week!!

07/05/2021, 13:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, if travelling and free are you able to take a call? M

07/05/2021, 13:45 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, apologies 2 further issues.

1. At 4 U.K. CMOs meeting agreed to move alert level to 3. Caveat and caution around travel, variants, behaviours etc. Will be forwarded to Cabinet office. Current plan to issue Monday - may leak before.

2. Back pocket plan re CTA and interface with International we could propose no guidance to self isolate for return from Green Country travel? Ian and I will work up something for next poker game.

07/05/2021, 19:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister nothing materially new re VUI now reclassified as VOC. Total now confirmed cases at 7. Excellent work by PHA to be honest. Still some loose ends re

terms of non travel related cases which may mean we see more community clusters. I will get updates over weekend and advise on any developments. Suggest 15-20 min presentation max. for you early next week. I think it would provide context and background as otherwise SitReps less meaningful. Would you be content? M

08/05/2021, 03:49 - Robin Swann: Content with that approach, thanks.

08/05/2021, 16:39 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister have forwarded Sitrep - 8 confirmed. No new developments of concern. M

11/05/2021, 19:45 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed group video call

11/05/2021, 21:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, in advance of the 8.30 am call and with apologies for the intrusion, CMO Scotland has now also advised SGTF (SG gene test failure) proportion has taken a precipitous drop in Glasgow as of today from 85% to 50%. May indicate a significant B.1.617.2 issue. I suspect this information may have been known earlier and before today. Equally position on ROI less clear. I understand that the names dominating in Glasgow may have origins in India & Pakistan. Population dynamics and mixing here may be different. Given Eid is in a couple of days this could present some challenges. Looks like potentially some difficulties soon & there is good reason for a precautionary approach even if only until such times as we know more. Equally we should not be overreacting at this time hence I would advise "watchful waiting" approach for as long as possible and if pressed indicate date with appropriate caveats and mitigations. Michael

13/05/2021, 07:02 - Robin Swann: Michael, can I check Portugal status, I note our paper recommendations it doesn't move to Green list, but Gov.UK says it will on the 17th May?

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/red-amber-and-green-list-rules-for-entering-england#green-list>

Portugal (including the Azores and Madeira) Will move to green from the amber list at 4am, 17 May. If you arrive in England before then, you need to follow the amber list rules.

13/05/2021, 07:37 - Dr Michael McBride: JBC assessment using methodology of Portugal was amber/green given VoC data. Ministers in England were given final option & decision and chose to rate at green. Scottish Ministers followed. Wales - CMO there also recommending Portugal to remain as amber. They have not yet confirmed their position. The Executive could choose for other reasons to move to green for other reasons irrespective of Ian and my assessment and advice which is reflected in the submission and paper.

13/05/2021, 08:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Para 9 of the Executive paper and 11-13 of submission for ease of reference. We will get push back on Portugal we (Ian and I) can only apply the agreed JBC methodology and provide advice to inform the Executive's decision.

13/05/2021, 08:31 - Robin Swann: that's what brought it to my attention, I can't find a narrative anywhere that their decision to add Portugal was political and outwith JBC's advice, is that public?

13/05/2021, 09:07 - Robin Swann: flights already scheduled Belfast-Faro for 22nd May

13/05/2021, 11:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Based on our professional advice and JBC methodology would require 10 days home isolation unless Executive makes an alternative policy decision. It's the prerogative of Minister to decide.

13/05/2021, 12:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Ian and I have views on this. Suggest Ian first if you wish? M

13/05/2021, 12:02 - Dr Michael McBride: We would definitely not be happy with conferences over 50 risk assessed and based on venue size... we have no confidence in the rigour of risk assessment by people with a commercial interest in having large numbers attend.

13/05/2021, 12:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Ian happy to comment

13/05/2021, 16:40 - Robin Swann: Wales : CONFIDENTIAL:

Green but with a proactive testing programme. PCR on day 2 and lfd twice thereafter in the week following.

We are nervous but don't have a rational basis not to do so. We are checking travel routes from India via Portugal too. The Indian variants are the only issues I'm concerned about for tonight

Aside from international travel.

13/05/2021, 18:28 - Dr Michael McBride: There speaks the new economy Minister Wales

13/05/2021, 18:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Jeane will probably be travelling more than most now

14/05/2021, 09:43 - Dr Michael McBride: For information

Portugal: Fresh uncertainty for UK tourists as green list country extends COVID 'state of calamity' until 30 May

<http://news.sky.com/story/fresh-uncertainty-for-uk-tourists-as-portugal-extends-state-of-calamity-until-30-may-12305909>

14/05/2021, 11:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just off call with ROI. They advised to date 34 B1.617.2, 14 of those close contacts and at least 4 cases of community transmission with no travel history. Said they didn't have to hand geographically despite my email yesterday evening. It sounded to me that they were accepting the inevitability of community transmission, which probably means they already have it. My concern would be possibly in Letterkenny and Dundalk. I secured agreement to a detailed meeting on Monday/Tuesday to include HSE,PHA and both Departments. Will keep you updated on any developments.

14/05/2021, 11:38 - Robin Swann: Thanks, latest letter from Donnelly on data sharing blaming PHA for shifting goal posts on what data is to be used for, can we get a quick response, thanks.

14/05/2021, 11:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister was this the letter received yesterday or is there another letter? M

14/05/2021, 11:55 - Robin Swann: 2 seperate letters received yesterday, 1 specifically on this.

14/05/2021, 12:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Haven't seen it Minister. Will speak to Kim and consider. Separately might Ian and impose on you, Richard & David and take advice on outcome and consequences of yesterday's Executive?

20/05/2021, 12:28 - Dr Michael McBride: Minster re further intra CTA paper we can comment and make clear it will accelerate introduction of variant. Any paper from Health as per the paper last night will advise against.

01/06/2021, 13:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister apologies caught in traffic.

03/06/2021, 11:04 - Dr Michael McBride: mood of the meeting strange

03/06/2021, 11:08 - Robin Swann: I don't know why I wasn't in favour of the ECT at the start...

03/06/2021, 11:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Agreed

03/06/2021, 11:16 - Dr Michael McBride: The inconsistency arose because Naomi high jacked the last TEO paper and proposed risk assessment in doors with no gap.

03/06/2021, 11:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you content we leave?

03/06/2021, 11:23 - Robin Swann: sure

03/06/2021, 11:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Many thanks

04/06/2021, 20:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister my apologies for all the delays this pm. With hindsight I could have and should have written the press release as frankly was all over the place. M

04/06/2021, 20:50 - Robin Swann: PHA lack in their understanding of public engagement, and their engagement with Derry City Council concerns me, I'm not sure their engagement skills have improved since they appeared in front of the health committee.

04/06/2021, 20:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Fully agree. I feel the need to man mark them for the same reason although it is an additional demand and pressure - hence my offer to join MP & MLAs briefing. The risk otherwise is that we then have to try and fix a problem created. We need to identify some of the younger PHA consultants to lead comms and stand down the likes of Stephen Bergin and Gerry Waldron. The alternative is to use Lourda, Naresh and Joanne McClean who is also excellent.

04/06/2021, 20:56 - Dr Michael McBride: PS Naresh doing GMU 7.35 Mon on vaccines. I have rehearsed his lines on this with him and will discuss again over the weekend.

04/06/2021, 23:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister,

Coverage tonight seems to be balanced have landed well thus far. If we can keep ahead tomorrow, Monday and Tuesday with interviews & briefing could work to our advantage in advance of Thursday's Executive and discussions on more premature relaxations. Also provides opportunity for further public recruitment of the efforts that will buy us time in the race of vaccine against variant. Perhaps a media platform piece from you and Executive written statement on Monday?

Covid-19: Kilkeel testing appeal over probable Indian variant cases

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-57364113>

07/06/2021, 21:39 - Robin Swann: it's **NR** not Graham

NR is at Holiday Inn Express Antrim: Room 116 Tel: **I&S** his mobile is **I&S** and email is **PD**

07/06/2021, 21:39 - Dr Michael McBride: Many thanks Minister

09/06/2021, 16:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, may be useful to speak with Ian and I after you have read the Executive paper. Latest SAGE advise not yet conveyed to Ministers is consistent with our to delay further reopening by 4 weeks.

09/06/2021, 16:31 - Dr Michael McBride: You might wish to consider strengthen the Executive paper further or Ian and I could strengthen our advice or allude to emerging SAGE considerations/advice. May come up a CDL call.

09/06/2021, 17:37 - Robin Swann: doubt our new FM will work off my script as well...

09/06/2021, 17:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Genuinely a historic moment and I feel personally for her. NI politics will be the poorer, the Executive more unpredictable and potentially without course or direction without the dynamic and working between you & she. If next week really doesn't go well going to cross community vote etc. I may need to consider the phrase I've only used once before in 15 years to a Minister "while recognising this is a matter for Ministers, I cannot support the Executive's decision." This doesn't need to end badly for us. The earlier closure of schools and recognising we have already gone further than some jurisdictions if we "stick" for a few weeks only we could see off the worst of this...

10/06/2021, 12:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister as you know ongoing further JR from Van Morrison

10/06/2021, 12:22 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister should we leave?

11/06/2021, 15:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister would it be inappropriate for me as CMO to write to FM indicating my personal and professional thanks for her support during the pandemic or perhaps best privately later?

11/06/2021, 15:27 - Robin Swann: I think she would appreciate the private one more.

11/06/2021, 15:27 - Robin Swann: ps you may have got you Knighthood - Van Morrison wrote a song all about me 🙌

11/06/2021, 15:29 - Dr Michael McBride: I can't believe the video clip and how responsible is was of others. Came close to incitement and risk to you in the context of previous threats.

16/06/2021, 00:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, might a holding/proactive position be that you have: "asked officials to engage with independent sector providers and Trusts to explore all options to increase vaccine uptake of both COVID and seasonal flu vaccine in advance of this winter to protect the most vulnerable an object we all share. This work will build on the close cooperation and working relationship established over the last 18 months." To note I have separately this evening emailed: **NR** and **NR** as HR policy leads asking that they engage with Unions and HR colleagues. Michael

Covid vaccine to be required for England care home staff

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57492264>

17/06/2021, 16:07 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister Executive has always indicated will be guided by the data not dates

17/06/2021, 16:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Risk for the Executive might be having to revisit and amend

17/06/2021, 16:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we cannot distinguish between central and pessimistic until 1st July at the earliest. Do make a decision next week is to make one in the absence of any sense of trajectory and at significant risk.

17/06/2021, 16:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Current advice to control the epidemic is work from home were possible otherwise this may delay other relaxations. Being reviewed at a U.K. level as part of the social distancing review.

17/06/2021, 16:31 - Dr Michael McBride: God please Jenny

18/06/2021, 15:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Under MOU planning for winter perhaps?

24/06/2021, 11:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Child delta variant as you know

24/06/2021, 11:56 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you wish me to update on anticipated completion dates 1st & 2nd doses - everyone over 18 1st by end July. All second doses by week commencing 6th September.

24/06/2021, 11:56 - Robin Swann: not unless asks

24/06/2021, 11:56 - Robin Swann: asked

24/06/2021, 11:58 - Dr Michael McBride: Re Conor - Rest of U.K. not easing significantly further until 19th July or 19 August in Scotland.

24/06/2021, 13:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Just need to consider 1. Message that sends to the public at this time (no doubt the intent 2. Risk and mitigations - you have written re regular use of LFDs.

24/06/2021, 13:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Policy matter under consideration by U.K. government

24/06/2021, 13:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you content we leave?

24/06/2021, 13:27 - Robin Swann: Yes

24/06/2021, 13:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Ta

24/06/2021, 15:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, Jonny and I have joined COVID-O to support not yet started.

29/06/2021, 14:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Belsonic vaccine only concert???

29/06/2021, 19:49 - Dr Michael McBride: 17 yr old in ICU in Ulster following "formal events."

30/06/2021, 17:53 - Robin Swann: SF line on vaccine certs, challenges equality for young people, setting up to kick the South.

01/07/2021, 13:37 - Dr Michael McBride: Should we seek Executive agreement to publish modelling to emphasis the importance of vaccine?

01/07/2021, 13:49 - Dr Michael McBride: Paul Frew seems to be enjoying this

01/07/2021, 13:50 - Robin Swann: Alister Ross will be keeping him entertained..

01/07/2021, 14:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies Minister they are winding me up today.

01/07/2021, 14:37 - Robin Swann: that's what they are trying to do - Poots/Givan pack, Frew tries to have a go but can't...

01/07/2021, 14:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Point made by Givan himself- they family mixing don't stay in the back garden the risk is they mix indoors etc.

01/07/2021, 15:05 - Dr Michael McBride: TEO proposals from Taskforce

01/07/2021, 15:06 - Dr Michael McBride: DfC proposals on music and we have just discussed

01/07/2021, 15:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Recommendation ii of your paper proposes further paper to come next weeks Executive

01/07/2021, 15:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Might I come in on para 11 and overnight events?

01/07/2021, 15:23 - Robin Swann: but not at this point...

01/07/2021, 15:23 - Dr Michael McBride: No all sorted Ian and just needed to be clear for the minutes as concerned lack of awareness of risk

01/07/2021, 15:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Para 6 was your paragraph and you agree

01/07/2021, 15:25 - Robin Swann: we cant produce certificates

01/07/2021, 15:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Not what's said "consideration" LFDs available as are PCR and not a prerequisite

01/07/2021, 15:30 - Dr Michael McBride: I thought we had agreed 5 pm Saturday for gap to allow for guidance & regulations etc

01/07/2021, 15:49 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies Minister I over spoke but just saw events running away.

01/07/2021, 15:50 - Robin Swann: we are going to be left holding the basket of keeping theaters etc closed for more data...

01/07/2021, 15:57 - Dr Michael McBride: Wasn't proposed by Taskforce for today and you have indicated and Executive has agreed need to look at the totality of remaining restrictions to ensure agreement on relative priorities.

01/07/2021, 21:05 - Dr Michael McBride: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**
Irrelevant & Sensitive

01/07/2021, 21:54 - Robin Swann: 👍

02/07/2021, 11:58 - Dr Michael McBride: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**
Irrelevant & Sensitive I also heard she was an outspoken anti-vaxer. Makes the mobile team visit to Castlewellan tomorrow more poignant. Hope there's good uptake.

02/07/2021, 11:59 - Dr Michael McBride: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

02/07/2021, 14:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I have drafted a note to Minister Hargrey re joint meeting with Sporting Codes to facilitate mobile vaccine clinics. Are you content with this approach or would you wish to be progressed at officials level?

02/07/2021, 14:37 - Robin Swann: Content to do joint ministerial

02/07/2021, 14:39 - Dr Michael McBride: Ok will forward draft to PO

08/07/2021, 13:03 - Dr Michael McBride: **LPP/LAP**
LPP/LAP

08/07/2021, 13:09 - Dr Michael McBride: Could propose 10 from 3 households as a fall back indoors. Bubbles due to go indicative date 26th July for ratification on 22nd

08/07/2021, 13:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Bubbles due to go number 5 in green refers

08/07/2021, 13:58 - Dr Michael McBride: 1 would have less risk than 7

08/07/2021, 14:01 - Robin Swann: i can't read a dramatic difference in 1 & 7

08/07/2021, 14:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Agreed

08/07/2021, 14:01 - Dr Michael McBride: However there would be some

08/07/2021, 14:13 - Dr Michael McBride: 3 weeks agreed by Executive Pathway Out of restrictions to ensure decisions informed by the data. Doesn't preclude earlier considerations

08/07/2021, 14:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Hasn't read his papers

08/07/2021, 14:47 - Dr Michael McBride: I can pick up "can't have vaccine."

08/07/2021, 17:40 - Dr Michael McBride: MIN - I understand SAGE also considering the non health benefit

10/07/2021, 17:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister 418 through Abbey Centre from yesterday mostly under 30s.

21/07/2021, 00:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, meeting with Alan Simms MD and Joe Dougan of Belsonic went extremely well in regards of: promotion of vaccination; incentivising of mobile venue clinics etc with free tickets for "sold out shows" etc; asymptomatic testing. Colin Neill apparently "willing to work with DOH" re certification for hospitality as per Nolan interview - "if we consult" as you predicted - Belsonic of a view that everyone else will fall into line in their sector once they support and lead out on this and see this as an approach essential for their longer term commercial viability. I checked for you and Van is not on the bill of performers. The teeshirts could be a counter cultural response & collectors item as they are keen to have bands/acts supporting vaccination!!!
Michael

21/07/2021, 06:15 - Robin Swann: Need to have a mtg tomorrow, it has obviously been lost somewhere, that as far as I am concerned the policy owner of the utilisation of certification is TEO, I couldn't miss Carol Morrows delight in tell the mtg yesterday evening that "Ed had agreed that health would lead on this"

21/07/2021, 10:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I understood Carol indicated Ed doing a paper on the the "technical" digital aspects only while TEO owned the wider aspects. I have reservations of Ed sitting on any cross departmental group. He is role is technical and he does not understand policy or the politics. I wasn't aware he was on TEOs group.

21/07/2021, 11:07 - Robin Swann: have you registered those concerns with Richard, dFM started with "I'm told health are preparing a paper, here its easier if Carol just comes on" so obviously Carol feeding FMdFM lines.

21/07/2021, 11:24 - Dr Michael McBride: I hadn't been aware until yesterday that Ed was on any TEO cross departmental group. I will raise with Dan and Richard the issues of boundaries and scope of any work and ensure that there is clarity that any/all is routed through PO and you Minister.

21/07/2021, 17:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister password for CDL call not being recognised. Are you able to connect?

21/07/2021, 17:20 - Robin Swann: no

21/07/2021, 20:41 - Robin Swann: Hi, personal query from [I&S] -

"Hi Robin: [I&S] Another personal question sorry! [Irrelevant & Sensitive]
[Irrelevant & Sensitive] My wife has yet to have her first covid vaccine with being pregnant, post partem issues and now breast feeding. Will she still be able to get a first dose vaccine after the mass vaccination centres shut at the end of the month as she doesn't want to have her injection: [Irrelevant & Sensitive]

21/07/2021, 20:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes Minister we can cover this. Happy to speak to him over next few days if helpful.

21/07/2021, 20:56 - Robin Swann: [I&S] .vcf (file attached) [Irrelevant image]

21/07/2021, 20:57 - Robin Swann: would be

21/07/2021, 21:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Will do

22/07/2021, 12:34 - Dr Michael McBride: More sense being spoken behind?

22/07/2021, 12:43 - Robin Swann: so all the angst & anger is against "our" paper & recommendations...

22/07/2021, 12:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Worth making again the point that "our" is merely updated advice from CMO and CSA?

22/07/2021, 13:05 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister might we have face coverings when singing in Churches at least?

22/07/2021, 13:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Taskforce paper with Health input as initially on 8th July. Not a health paper.

22/07/2021, 13:13 - Dr Michael McBride: Hospital Admission data at weekends is unreliable... Doesn't catch up until Tuesday.

22/07/2021, 13:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Get a jab get a driving test appointment!!!

23/07/2021, 11:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I spoke with [I&S] I reassured both.
[Irrelevant & Sensitive]

23/07/2021, 15:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Message from [I&S] "First dose done. Thanks for taking the time this morning. Very much appreciated. [I&S]

26/07/2021, 18:45 - Robin Swann: just realised Ian isn't in the group chat but Declan is, can we add him?

26/07/2021, 18:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes

26/07/2021, 18:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you wish Declan to remain?

26/07/2021, 19:04 - Robin Swann: I don't mind either way.

26/07/2021, 22:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Ian now added.

29/07/2021, 12:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Ian and my strong recommendations is to advice against reducing social distancing indoors as we have said

29/07/2021, 12:24 - Dr Michael McBride: 1 m in guidance

29/07/2021, 12:32 - Dr Michael McBride: It's a Taskforce/TEO paper this is not a health recommendation

29/07/2021, 12:33 - Dr Michael McBride: No anomalies just a difficult decision for the Executive

29/07/2021, 12:34 - Robin Swann: faile - if thats how you spell it

29/07/2021, 12:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Good try agree 1m indoors in regulation. Advice / guidance 1m outdoors.

29/07/2021, 12:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Happy to discuss. Might use of word "advice" as opposed to "guidance" facilitate a way through?!

29/07/2021, 13:35 - Dr Michael McBride: We don't yet know with certainty whether this wave has peaked

29/07/2021, 14:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister by way of early heads up, JCVI met this morning & discussed vaccination of children aged 12 to 17. Almost evenly split, by a narrow margin decided to recommend that all children aged 16 and 17 years of age should be offered vaccination. Due to possible link to myocarditis the committee are recommending that a second dose is not given to these individuals, at this stage, until further evidence is received. No planned date for announcement although previous experience might suggest 2 weeks. Given importance may be pulled forward. Will prepare submission to update.

30/07/2021, 00:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I think you may have suggest first linking to NI retail voucher.

BBC News - Covid-19: Biden tells states to offer \$100 vaccine incentive as cases rise

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-58020090>

12/08/2021, 12:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Sensible comments from Naomi. Hence your paper "Prudent to retain facecoverings especially in first 6 wks

12/08/2021, 12:35 - Dr Michael McBride: Cases will increase when schools return

12/08/2021, 12:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Your officials happy to work with DE and EA officials re classes in large well ventilated spaces

12/08/2021, 13:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister as in your paper suggest would be preferable to pass the peak before any change on working from home. I not sure how this would be perceived in terms of messaging from the Executive given case numbers and HSC pressures.

02/09/2021, 14:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Worth trying and pushing now domestic use and testing. The real problem is the Executive won't take a policy position

02/09/2021, 14:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Also work to be done by Taskforce on Ventilation

02/09/2021, 14:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Would be cross cutting school, hospitality etc

02/09/2021, 19:48 - Robin Swann: Can we get a read out from Frank Casey on his assessment on myocarditis concerns following vaccination of over 12s?

02/09/2021, 19:55 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, v happy to approach. Frank may not be across all of the data or more likely may not have access to all and any advise will be informal.

03/09/2021, 22:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister my sincere apologies. I had albeit briefly mentioned the need for a change in contact tracing in schools on Tuesday in our wide ranging conversation given pressures. Fully accept and apologise that this was not in any detail as was still under development. By way of mitigation I can only advise that the pressures have arisen extremely rapidly and are intense & likely to escalate putting at risk the effectiveness of TTP more generally. In my professional judgement the current schools approach is not sustainable or proportionate and risks undermining the effectiveness of TTP more generally. DE officials had agreed simultaneously briefing to you and DE Minister- again we have had our eye wiped and I can only apologise as the work to progress has been that of your officials. I have responded to Kim and happy to provide further briefing as you determine. Separately re JCVI and 12-15 I have arranged to engage with Ray, Frank - as you suggested- to include Laurence Dorman and Stuart Elborne.

06/09/2021, 15:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, do you wish to get Executive agreement to publish the updated modelling?

06/09/2021, 15:56 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, in terms of "return to office" you might wish to considering making the point on Minister Lyons comment: "... staff can't go back safely to work at present. There are however measures which may reduce risk as you officials have indicated & perhaps reasonable to initiate discussions around future working patterns and maximum mitigations."

06/09/2021, 16:35 - Dr Michael McBride: **Irrelevant & Sensitive**

Irrelevant & Sensitive

06/09/2021, 16:36 - Robin Swann: content

06/09/2021, 16:39 - Dr Michael McBride: Much appreciated

06/09/2021, 16:40 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister they previously argued for a decibel limit when we had no music, and said no problems implementing...

06/09/2021, 16:40 - Robin Swann: can I go to?

06/09/2021, 16:40 - Dr Michael McBride: ... now that made we laugh

06/09/2021, 16:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Fixed limit would be ok and should work.

06/09/2021, 16:47 - Dr Michael McBride: FM just now did not accurately summarise our advice on risk of dancing at weddings etc. It is stated correctly in the paper however.

06/09/2021, 17:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Is there an option of a delayed date subject to data

09/09/2021, 16:05 - Robin Swann: Robin, really sorry to bother you but I need to get **NR** a PCR test today. The Fermanagh sites don't come up in the online system. Can you help???

09/09/2021, 16:05 - Robin Swann: from former FM Arlene Foster.

09/09/2021, 17:53 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted>

09/09/2021, 17:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you what me/or one of us to ring her

09/09/2021, 18:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Enniskillen 146 and Lisnaskea 588 for tomorrow

09/09/2021, 18:21 - Robin Swann: please

13/09/2021, 10:25 - Dr Michael McBride: I'd be concerned of a gap and vacuum being filled bwt issue of and press conference which is currently planned for 16.00 or 16.30. JCVI advice on boosters tomorrow

13/09/2021, 11:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Apparently now pushed back by DHSC no longer issuing 11 am time to be confirmed

16/09/2021, 21:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I note your sharing of SF tweet although can't read as don't have an account. Will chase down in am. As mentioned previously dFM requested an "off the record meeting" earlier in week. Scheduled for 2 pm tomorrow. Are you still content I proceed given this. Be assured I will keep any comments high level as I understand may be relayed, quoted or misused.

16/09/2021, 21:38 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **INQ000371390**

16/09/2021, 21:39 - Robin Swann: content you met, assume it will be off the back of FM claiming you had briefed him on our winter plans.

16/09/2021, 21:44 - Dr Michael McBride: Do politicians lie?

21/09/2021, 17:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister might I comment on the Public health considerations

21/09/2021, 17:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Sorry too political now

23/09/2021, 11:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I omitted to mention just in the event is raised that issue re additional primary vaccine of unvaccinated staff during administration of boosters in Care Homes resolved.

23/09/2021, 11:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister Ian has the comparative vaccine data if you wish

23/09/2021, 12:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we have repeatedly verbally and in papers including today provided advice on the utility of vaccine certification for domestic us while recognising a policy decision for Ministers

23/09/2021, 12:54 - Dr Michael McBride: It's TEO who are scoping the policy, Ian and I have provided our advice, Health only considering the technical aspect.

23/09/2021, 14:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister if limited move on social distancing agreed with mitigations etc. there needs to be a strong "joined up" collective message from the Executive on face coverings and other mitigations

23/09/2021, 14:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Not just lip service

23/09/2021, 14:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Ian and I happy with Naomi's suggestion if helpful

23/09/2021, 15:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Re PG Technology fix 6-8 weeks and has no basis or applications if no TEO paper or Executive agreed policy.

23/09/2021, 15:15 - Dr Michael McBride: The Mitigations being proposed are enablers for these sector and permissive in that regard as opposed to restrictive.

23/09/2021, 16:27 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you content Ian and I leave to attend other meetings?

23/09/2021, 16:28 - Robin Swann: yes

23/09/2021, 16:29 - Dr Michael McBride: Thank you

27/09/2021, 15:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Someone scuba diving?!

27/09/2021, 19:11 - Dr Michael McBride: As I wrote it I can confirm vaccine plus LFD optimal, LFD or vaccine certification better than nothing. We have been consistent. Agree with dFM on her points on consistency of messaging at this time particularly

27/09/2021, 19:16 - Dr Michael McBride: How can the Executive possibly make a decision of COVID certification for domestic use without a paper

27/09/2021, 19:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Not in the paper

27/09/2021, 19:56 - Robin Swann: us 3 spending too much time together...

27/09/2021, 20:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Clearly

27/09/2021, 20:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister there is real risk that everyone will seek to represent our advice and what we said...

04/10/2021, 15:49 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister while stating the obvious there is a risk of you getting lumbered with delay in vaccine certification for domestic use. While technically possible early November, given likelihood of JR Liz R estimates with Human Rights Impact Assessment, EQIA, ICO likely to take 6-7 with dedicated team if we take it. Suggest need to ensure TEO leads coordination on this aspects even if we do the regs etc.

06/10/2021, 10:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister DFM was trying to reach me. I understand she has now made contact with you directly.

06/10/2021, 10:20 - Robin Swann: yes, keen for a landing zone, lift SD by 'end of the month' while developing a certificate scheme to be used if necessary at that point.

06/10/2021, 10:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Voluntary in guidance in meantime would be preferable. Excellent and very positive feedback from SSE, Theatres, Concert venues yesterday who successfully adopted this approach in stark contrast to NI Hotel Federation & Hospitality Ulster who frankly did not inspire any confidence & gave the impression it was all too much bother. Happy to update you later on clear lines from CBI and Janice which clearly reflected back briefing.

07/10/2021, 12:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Min do you want Ian and I to come in re: everything is associated with risk. Key is ability to move fast to higher levels and hence complete preparatory work while monitoring the data

07/10/2021, 13:12 - Dr Michael McBride: As you and we have said, SAGE has said there is high degree of uncertainty. Happy to say this. I need to confirm our advice is clear

07/10/2021, 13:25 - Dr Michael McBride: I wouldn't support the FM position.

07/10/2021, 13:26 - Dr Michael McBride: Primary purpose is prevention of transmission. Message needs to be clearer. The science and public health advice is not secondary to the messaging

07/10/2021, 14:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister might Ian and I be released?

07/10/2021, 14:26 - Robin Swann: yes - for good behaviour..

07/10/2021, 14:54 - Dr Michael McBride: Many thanks

19/10/2021, 17:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, in event comes up at 5.30 call I have checked re AY4.2 delta variant. Currently representing 6% of cases in England. Has acquired 1/2 more spike region mutations and suggestion may be ?10-15% more transmissible. Nothing as yet to suggest/raise concerns re vaccine escape. Does not seem at to be outcompeting existing delta at present.

11/11/2021, 20:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, brief update will provide full update tomorrow. Significant problem with extensive nosocomial outbreak in CAH - only one surgical ward not in outbreak or currently under investigation. As discussed, I chaired meeting with PHA mid afternoon in respect of Outbreak Control team and IPC measures. While some room for improvement in terms of vaccination and routine staff testing, current IPC at least comparable to and in some aspect in addition to other Trusts. Subsequent chaired meeting with PHA, HSCB and Secondary Care (Peter & Ryan) late evening. A number of actions agreed to decongest the site in terms of flow in and out: enhanced supported discharge over this weekend/next week - 35 current fit for discharge; enhanced care at home; redistribution of CoVID patients receiving respiratory ward support - currently 20/60 regionally in NI; possible redirection of planned elective admission to BHSCT or SEHSCT. Also discussion of some external support. I have not briefed Richard although will be escalated to GOLD meeting tomorrow. We will need to consider the relative merits of wider public communications but only from perspective of any perceptions around openness and transparency. Thought best to give you a heads up as appreciate your concern. I left all concerned in no doubt as to your expectations.
M

12/11/2021, 07:44 - Robin Swann: Thanks for this, as you gathered I'm at a loss as to why trust management has done something already.

12/11/2021, 13:42 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, discussed at GOLD. Submission in preparation.

Separately you have noted Causeway and Glens - up from 444 to 649 in last 7 days. J5th November event at Elk complex, Antrim. 98 cases identified as of yesterday.

12/11/2021, 13:44 - Robin Swann: Elk needs a PHA /Environmental Health/Licensing visit/inspection even on the back of some of the photos - as CMO I'm sure you would be minded to write to ECT Compliance/Enforcement requesting same?

12/11/2021, 13:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Plan to discuss on 4 pm call and identify key actions this being one of them.

12/11/2021, 13:47 - Robin Swann: Elk event from what I am told was u18, therefore even if certs were in place would have been outside scope.

12/11/2021, 13:49 - Dr Michael McBride: It was, DJs and as I understand " no alcohol. Agreed re certs. I understand a similar event is planned for the 17th!

12/11/2021, 14:04 - Robin Swann: maybe a fire inspection needed as well?

12/11/2021, 14:16 - Dr Michael McBride: Separately JCVI statements now pushed to Monday. In addition to 16-17 2nd doses & 40-49 booster will now also express "preference" for second dose Pfizer in 18-29 yr old who have received 1st dose Moderna - I believe down to potential concerns re myocarditis. We will need to see wording. Will need to ensure doesn't undermine confidence in Moderna and we will also now need to get Pfizer into community pharmacy.

12/11/2021, 14:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes, 19th not 17th current date for subsequent at present. Not sure how this could be allowed until full inspection and assurances provided.

12/11/2021, 14:27 - Dr Michael McBride: I under SoS now arranged for nation Ministerial meeting for 3pm. Do you wish a pre-brief with **NR** and myself?

12/11/2021, 14:30 - Robin Swann: maybe a quick 5 min if possible

12/11/2021, 14:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Spoke to PO Jenny trying to organise zoom possibly 2.45 to include Karina, Marty and myself. If suits you.

12/11/2021, 14:32 - Robin Swann: 👍

12/11/2021, 15:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies waiting to join

12/11/2021, 15:03 - Robin Swann: so am I

12/11/2021, 15:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Relieved!

13/11/2021, 13:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister apologies. MHRA have come back with some additional information. In light of it JCVI to take more time to look at the Moderna issue. Therefore I understand there will be NO announcing of any Moderna changes on Monday.

13/11/2021, 13:39 - Robin Swann: 👍

13/11/2021, 15:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies got a little tired and emotional - at a BMA conference I must be losing it!!

13/11/2021, 18:23 - Dr Michael McBride: <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/parents-concern-at-overcrowded-toomebridge-teen-disco-41048452.html>

15/11/2021, 09:00 - Dr Michael McBride: Can you take a call from Richard and myself

15/11/2021, 09:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Just re Executive handling

16/11/2021, 19:28 - Dr Michael McBride: Perhaps point on lower cost interventions now has opposed to higher cost later. And even no certainty this will be enough

16/11/2021, 19:39 - Dr Michael McBride: Min we really need this ASAP next week if possible with grace period as you indicate plus other measures immediately

17/11/2021, 13:09 - Dr Michael McBride: I note Naomi letter refers to TTP capacity. I now have draft figures for week 8-14th will be published tomorrow. 9,732 cases, 84% reached within 24 hrs 89% within 48. Contacts 26,811 92% within 24hrs, 98% within 48 hrs. M

17/11/2021, 14:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, work from home, face coverings, ventilation, limiting contacts are in place in present doesn't require a paper on these - all outlined in the R paper.

17/11/2021, 14:03 - Dr Michael McBride: Just no one following or enforcing

17/11/2021, 14:04 - Dr Michael McBride: I don't think we could be any clearer on the urgency

17/11/2021, 14:07 - Dr Michael McBride: I think we have been clear... Most of the measures otherwise do not require regulation. Just better adherence or enforcement.

17/11/2021, 15:08 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister should the wider paper not be TEO given Autumn Winter plan

17/11/2021, 15:09 - Dr Michael McBride: It's all in the Executive plan ..

17/11/2021, 15:24 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister I can come in on the specific JCVI point

20/11/2021, 10:20 - Robin Swann: Is Patricia attending the Vaccine Centre thankyou event in Ballymena?

If she is, ask her to look after the Council Rep for Mid & East Antrim, Tina Turner - one of mine & great defender of what we do.

20/11/2021, 11:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes both Patricia and I attending at 3 pm

20/11/2021, 12:29 - Robin Swann: if you have a word, he's more than happy & able to pass on the message about what some other politicians are saying..

20/11/2021, 12:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister is there anything in particular I should be aware of in respect of less informed political commentary? I understand from media interviews yesterday that a major party back briefing that Ian and I providing insufficient detail to allow them to support any policy decisions ...

20/11/2021, 13:47 - Robin Swann: Nothing major, they are looking for a reason after the fact, as is usual with them.

26/11/2021, 18:21 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister are you still waiting to join?

26/11/2021, 18:27 - Robin Swann: yes

26/11/2021, 18:47 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister as mentioned earlier this is our advice as U.K. CMOs and will be UKHSA advice as well

26/11/2021, 18:51 - Dr Michael McBride: ROI advice to Minister will attempt to mirror U.K.

26/11/2021, 18:53 - Robin Swann: <Media omitted> **awaiting attachment**

26/11/2021, 19:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Just off call with ROI and have shared our approach etc. Possible that Netherlands, UAE, Angola and Zambia may be added. No idea of timeframe. No COVID O planned for tomorrow or over weekend. Cabinet Office not including Malawi and Mozambique in regs as querying rationale UKSA and DHSC rationale. Cabinet Office has apologised. Scotland haven't made their regs yet. Wales have indicated they will remove. While your decision given written statement etc. and we could amend regs may create more embarrassment and could all be back on come Monday. Happy to discuss how you wish to handle

26/11/2021, 20:32 - Robin Swann: I see USA have included Mozambique and Malawi.

26/11/2021, 21:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Not surprised I suspect my back in Monday as discussed. We are sending out HSC letter re same and cc to Kim, PO & David for information. First cases requiring admission on clinical groups will be admitted to Regional IDU in RVH.

26/11/2021, 22:40 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, DHSC PO office written out to Ministers (including I believe separately to DA ministers). The proposition (although not confirmed or communicated) will be an announcement tomorrow morning (time tbc. We expect around 10 am once comms materials have been developed and agreed to add Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Angola to the red list, with regs coming into force at 4am on Sunday in line with the standing up of England MQS. I

understand Ministers offices are currently responding to DHSC. I will NR Lourda on standby to sign any regs. Michael

27/11/2021, 16:50 - Dr Michael McBride: FM not on

27/11/2021, 16:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Now on...

27/11/2021, 16:53 - Robin Swann: no link to meeting in the email

27/11/2021, 17:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Peter Luney has sent through

01/12/2021, 09:33 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister to reassure you briefings proceeding as per your request: Liz, Ian and myself

02/12/2021, 08:11 - Robin Swann: Can I get a read out of mtg with Naomi & Nichola before the Executive, thanks

02/12/2021, 08:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Yes Minister. I spoke with Mark. Only issue raised of substance was your letter re phased approach - covered well by Liz and accepted substantive issues arose following engagement, time was short, priority was to put in place incrementally and we agreed would extend ASAP. Interesting Min Long raised no issues re enforcement or PSNI. Stated she believed some elements of hospitality aligned with some elected representatives were overstating impacts likening to same individuals who objected to smoking ban again claiming would result in the end of the sector. All very keen that science and public Health emphasised to challenge the disinformation.

In respect of HC some questions re increasing vaccinator pool (Colm) indicated underway at your direction including National Protocol in respect of widening potential pool to non registrants. Some questions re WGS which Ian walked them through (Colm) and raised by Nichola later again Ian covered.

02/12/2021, 09:59 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, SA returned Father and son WGS confirmed Delta. They and 20 close contacts will be now contacted & subject to PHA advice may be released from self isolation as an omicron contact. <5 others cases under investigation.

02/12/2021, 12:37 - Dr Michael McBride: Well done

02/12/2021, 12:48 - Robin Swann: DUP new lines we have shifted the reason they are being brought in, so no longer valid, will undermine on equality impact etc.

02/12/2021, 13:28 - Dr Michael McBride: There's a headline

03/12/2021, 17:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister may I update you following Health Ministers call?

03/12/2021, 17:01 - Dr Michael McBride: Or before if this is short

03/12/2021, 17:45 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you want to raise returning students pre Xmas?

03/12/2021, 17:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Ask Jenny re testing and perhaps Ministers view on U.K. alignment eg lateral flow

05/12/2021, 11:05 - Robin Swann: Can I just check our current guidance on isolation for a fully vaccinated parent of a primary school age child who has received a positive test?

05/12/2021, 11:33 - Robin Swann: no panic CTT sorted me.

05/12/2021, 13:23 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies Minister just picking up.

05/12/2021, 20:32 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister with apologies I have sent you a direct email given potential for some political and media fall out. In my view public health and best interests outweigh.

05/12/2021, 22:14 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister if any concerns whatsoever regarding **I&S**

I&S please do not hesitate to make contact. Take care. Michael

I&S

09/12/2021, 13:54 - Robin Swann: vocal in the meeting then follow up call to say they didn't mean it
- Colin Neill comes to mind...

09/12/2021, 13:55 - Dr Michael McBride: My thoughts exactly - both sides of mouth and both faces

10/12/2021, 15:24 - Dr Michael McBride: As we discussed need to be clear in U.K. communications that different approach to self-isolation of close contacts depending on level of community transmission and approach will be revised as situation changes.

10/12/2021, 15:33 - Robin Swann: had we any update on the AZ stats?

10/12/2021, 15:34 - Dr Michael McBride: None whatsoever and Gregor and I have just communicated our dissatisfaction.

10/12/2021, 15:47 - Robin Swann: PHA has the data?

10/12/2021, 15:52 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister neither I nor Gregor sighted. Not sure of Frank. We have received an apology for Jenny Harries if an UKHSA issue. We have asked for a presentation. I have already asked for the logistical work on prioritisation and role out of booster for AZ/AZ. Realistically this will be Monday at the earliest

10/12/2021, 15:57 - Robin Swann: making this up as he goes...

10/12/2021, 17:25 - Robin Swann: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-59615005>

10/12/2021, 17:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just received:

UKHSA present early VE monitoring over time

- Most recent estimates now include recent omicron - Only based on 240 omicron cases (travellers excluded)
- estimates for this week:
 - o 2 doses AZ vaccine + 14 days after 2nd dose given ~ 6 months ago: 0% VE for omicron, versus 45% for delta @6 months
 - o 2 doses PF vaccine + 14 days after 2nd dose: 30% VE for omicron, versus 70% for delta @6 months
- When add booster (modelling):
 - o AZx2 +PFB = increases to 60% (compared with 95% for delta)
 - o PFx2 +PFB = increases to 70% (compared with >95% for delta)

10/12/2021, 17:35 - Dr Michael McBride: I think the holding line should be that "JCVI has been asked to urgently consider any implications and we will to be guided by JCVI advice."

12/12/2021, 13:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we discussed 3-5 year medical student from both Universities this am. We have 450 applicants as vaccinators and will move to take those all on with immediate effect. The team have already engage with NR re additional LG facilities

12/12/2021, 13:15 - Robin Swann: dFM msging already about impact of Lvl 4 for us...

12/12/2021, 13:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Level 4 means that consideration needs to be given to further interventions. This needs to in context of updated modelling and recognition we are 1-2 weeks behind as Ian indicated.

12/12/2021, 13:18 - Dr Michael McBride: He can't help himself...

12/12/2021, 13:19 - Robin Swann: can you add something along those lines to your letter to FMdFM

12/12/2021, 13:32 - Robin Swann: dear me - he's picking up on the msging 😊

12/12/2021, 13:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Penny dropped?!

12/12/2021, 13:51 - Dr Michael McBride: Must have a new script writer

15/12/2021, 17:42 - Dr Michael McBride: We do need the fiscal freedoms to act in a timely way.

15/12/2021, 17:50 - Dr Michael McBride: Naresh meet with NR re MACCA request today.

16/12/2021, 11:36 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister sorry on reading to end: ECT paper Para 8 - should be end of December as per R paper. Para 20 not sure that is true for Scot & Wales but it's their paper and no based on our advice.

16/12/2021, 11:46 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just double checking your content for Ian to go through the modelling?

16/12/2021, 11:59 - Robin Swann: yes

16/12/2021, 12:28 - Dr Michael McBride: are you content for Patricia to leave for other things?

16/12/2021, 12:30 - Robin Swann: yes

16/12/2021, 18:07 - Robin Swann: Scots have went to 5mins wait rather than remove?

16/12/2021, 18:15 - Dr Michael McBride: aware of that. It makes no sense and there's no evidential basis for this

22/12/2021, 00:02 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister please hold on current draft letter to FMdFM as emergent data from Scotland as of very late this evening & while preliminary and not as yet replicated might indicate more measured/caveated response. Ian and I will consider in the morning. We do not wish to leave your position or advice exposed and less than fully informed.

22/12/2021, 03:34 - Robin Swann: Thanks, I will do, it's taken quite abit out of me holding it back until now, but I wasn't entirely personally comfortable.

22/12/2021, 13:12 - Dr Michael McBride: Abel on Cain the sequel

22/12/2021, 15:20 - Robin Swann: is that not what the Economy Minister should be doing???

22/12/2021, 15:22 - Robin Swann: ffs ... next up dog grooming..

22/12/2021, 15:26 - Dr Michael McBride: And the dog groomer in chief must be out looking over a gate...

22/12/2021, 16:20 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister is there a definition of the grace period as it doesn't sound a good idea we have v little leeway

22/12/2021, 16:31 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister this has slipped quite a bit do you wish to revert to Ian and I to advise?

29/12/2021, 15:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister delay in IAD data feed. Ian can finalise R paper on what he has or delay although may be much later. In all honesty I think all data feeds suboptimal so may be best to finalise with what Ian currently has?

29/12/2021, 17:24 - Robin Swann: content he finalises with what he has.

Expect tomorrow to be about testing & quarantine.

30/12/2021, 12:42 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister on face coverings "these were ECT proposals and Im sure my officials have/will liaise with TEO officials" GPs do charge for letters in some circumstances.

30/12/2021, 12:48 - Dr Michael McBride: Missed voice call

04/01/2022, 20:30 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister, R paper won't be ready until tomorrow morning if that's ok?

04/01/2022, 20:34 - Robin Swann: thats fine

06/01/2022, 11:53 - Dr Michael McBride: This is a total shambles and reflects poor preparation & planning. Policy without considering implementation is just so much wishful thinking. In actual fact may damage the message around legal requirement and need for enforcement. Need to ensure it is understood the grace period is only in the requirement to provide proof of exemption.

06/01/2022, 12:06 - Dr Michael McBride: If 80% achieve the impact is not minimal it is significant

06/01/2022, 12:10 - Dr Michael McBride: They can still produce a negative LFT

06/01/2022, 12:11 - Dr Michael McBride: I don't believe employers and legally require employees to produce proof - perhaps Justice Minister is better placed to advise on that

06/01/2022, 12:18 - Dr Michael McBride: Completely ridiculous

06/01/2022, 15:06 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologies my link not working at present

11/01/2022, 11:17 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister you are correct. 10th review of regs due for this Thursday. Almost complete awaiting last two updates. Will share ASAP.

13/01/2022, 12:37 - Dr Michael McBride: A mess of ECTs creation will undoubtedly seek to play health into taking the fall and lay responsibility at GPs

13/01/2022, 12:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Jayne and adherence group have indicated well embedded and PSNI reporting same

13/01/2022, 12:53 - Dr Michael McBride: Not surprising up as Omicron is more transmissible

19/01/2022, 17:10 - Dr Michael McBride: Do you want to mention self isolation at some stage given memo has issued

19/01/2022, 18:42 - Dr Michael McBride: I understand FM has already tweeted re self isolation period

20/01/2022, 14:11 - Dr Michael McBride: Forgot to mention was in contact with Tony Hollahan this am & we will be meeting tomorrow:

Update: ROI Public health team meets this morning and will give advice to Government to consider at a special meeting tomorrow with likely lead announcement tomorrow evening by Taoiseach. Anticipate advising a very widespread easing of current restrictions at the apply to various settings including hospitality measures, indoor and outdoor gatherings, households, workplace and possibly vaccine passes- school measure retained pending progress on vaccination of children, face coverings mandates may go - not decided - but not much else. Considering changes in testing and contact tracing etc. over next weeks. Will hear more tomorrow

20/01/2022, 14:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Why couldn't better just keep quiet!

20/01/2022, 14:41 - Dr Michael McBride: Peter

20/01/2022, 14:44 - Robin Swann: glad you clarified you meant Peter, thought you meant me.

20/01/2022, 14:45 - Dr Michael McBride: Apologises

10/02/2022, 14:04 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister just sent you an email update on epidemiology which may be helpful and to inform discussions

10/02/2022, 22:23 - Robin Swann: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-60339235>

10/02/2022, 22:34 - Dr Michael McBride: Extremely ill-advised and ill-judged. More generally the independence, integrity and impartiality of the office of the CMO is but entrusted to each of us to safeguard.

13/02/2022, 21:40 - Dr Michael McBride: Minister we were planning on some Comms with you Wed or Thurs for the Panoramic Trial.

I&S wondering whether you might consider registering for the trial. If interested you could register on the Oxford website and you would be contacted by the NI team in due course. No obligation of course. Although good PR for the trail etc and would demonstrate your active contribution to research to inform the best use of antivirals. Nigel Harte academic GP is principal investigator here.

13/02/2022, 21:43 - Dr Michael McBride: Link attached

13/02/2022, 21:44 - Dr Michael McBride: <https://www.panoramictrial.org/>

14/02/2022, 08:46 - Robin Swann: not eligible according to their criteria.

15/03/2022, 15:45 - Robin Swann: Congratulations on today, enjoy & spoil yourself 🍷 as its well deserved.

15/03/2022, 15:47 - Dr Michael McBride: <Media omitted>