



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

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## READOUT: Tanaiste/SoS call on border measures

1 message

Name Redacted <[redacted]@nio.gov.uk>

9 May 2020 at 12:21

To: PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk>, SpAds PS <spads.ps@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, Madeleine Alessandri <madeleine.alessandri@nio.gov.uk>

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<[redacted]@nio.gov.uk>, Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>

In attendance: SoS, Tanaiste, PUS, Ciaran Hayes,

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Mark Larmour,

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### Actions

- Mark L <[redacted] NR> to provide DFA with what we can on border measure plans, particularly exemptions (inc CTA, hauliers etc.), through informal channels. [Note: please protect - this is being done informally at an NIO level]
- Mark L to pick up with Fergal on the issues around checks on passengers arriving/leaving under the CTA exemption.
- PO to continue with plans to schedule a quad meeting toward the end of the coming week.

### Note

- SoS set out the details of the new public health measures on arrivals at the border, ahead of the PM's announcement. SoS stressed that he felt this helped with alignment.
- SoS also set out the exemption agreed for CTA journeys, making clear that this was not just North/South on the island of Ireland but for Ireland/GB trips too e.g. Dublin to Holyhead.
- The Tánaiste noted that this exemption was a generous offer, and that his officials were meeting to look at how the IG could improve their border measures. For example, considering the legal underpinning for self isolation or quarantine requirements. The Tánaiste said that Cabinet would be meeting at the end of next week to come to a decision on any further refinements and on enforceability.
- The Tánaiste went on to discuss the possibility of implementing the same kind of CTA exemption on the Irish side. He noted that there could be benefits to this - for example, corporate decision makers running businesses on both sides of the Irish sea still needed to travel back and forth. He was interested to see if there was anything that could be done within public health advice. The Tánaiste was keen to see the detail, as far as possible, of the UKG advice whilst these decisions were being taken by the IG - there could be opportunities to mirror. SoS agreed this would be a good example of joint working, if possible.
- SoS and the Tánaiste briefly touched upon the possibility of reassurances such as temperature checks even within exempted categories such as those making CTA trips - SoS was clear that his initial view was that this would not honour the intention of the CTA.
- SoS and the Tánaiste agreed that a quad should be put in diaries toward the end of next week, which would be helpful as Ireland/NI/wider UK pathways on the lifting of lockdown restrictions should be clearer.



NR

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