



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

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

## Ireland position on foreign arrivals

6 messages

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

21 April 2020 at 11:07

To: Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>, PSI <psi@nio.gov.uk>, International <international@nio.gov.uk>

NR

NR @nio.gov.uk

Cc: P.S.SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, Holly Clark <holly.clark@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>

NR

NR @nio.gov.uk

Paul NR

Coveney has just given SoS a heads up that he expects their Cabinet to meet today and accept advice from their CMO to change what they do for those arriving in Ireland by the ports, air and sea.

They will move from asking them to restrict movements for 14 days to asking new entrants to go into isolation for 14 day - they currently have around 300 people a day arriving. However this could have implications for how people coming into NI and then travelling to Ireland are dealt with, which he didn't yet have an answer for.

I've also heard that Cabinet Office (GPS ctee) are doing some thinking on whether to adapt the current position on people arriving in UK. Please could we get in touch with the relevant people there to flag that the Irish advice may need to factored in. NR will be better placed to advise on who best to speak with than I.

NR



### NIO Private Office

1 Horse Guards Road, London  
Stormont House, Belfast  
Ciarán Hayes (PPS)

NR

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[See recipients listed above]

Thanks NR

Conscious of the risk you've flagged that SF use this to argue for similar restrictions between GB and Ireland, though I don't think there actually is extensive travel into NI from GB. That is a real risk, and it's an argument you might imagine the Dublin part of the party would be keen to advance in NI.

I don't think we think any proactive handling of party spads would be helpful today, it risks making more of a deal of this than it needs to be and triggering a response before we've seen the detail of the announcement before we've seen how it's framed and the detail underneath it.

What we would recommend, however, is marshalling our arguments for why further restrictions between NI and GB aren't necessary/are under consideration (whatever the position is) Though we would probably need others to tell us what those arguments are! Obviously, if we see a dispute start to emerge seriously in the Exec we can advise on relevant next steps handling wise.

S

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Northern  
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Office

NR

Head of Political Strategy, Policy and Implementation  
1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

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[See recipients listed above]

NR

Thanks for this. Can you make sure that this is fed into the International MIG machinery.

Ciarán

**Ciarán Hayes**

**Principal Private Secretary**

1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ &  
Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SH



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✉ ciaran.hayes@nio.gov.uk | www.gov.uk/nio

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[See recipients listed above]

[See recipients listed above]

Cc: NR who I believe has done this

NR  
[Quoted text hidden]

[See recipients listed above]

Yep we've fed it into the secretariat via NR

NR

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[See recipients listed above]

To confirm, I sent the below -

[See recipients listed above]

Cc: International <international@nio.gov.uk>, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk>, COVID19 DAS Liaisons <covid19-das@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

Hi,

I've been asked by NIO colleagues to flag the following. We do not believe that it needs formal discussion at the GPS MIG, but the Chair may wish to be aware in case it is raised by an NI Minister.

Copying the International (IMIG) secretariat as this relates to bilateral relations.

*The Irish Tanaiste Simon Coveney has advised SoSNI that he expects the Irish Cabinet to meet today and accept advice from their CMO to change what they do for those arriving in Ireland by the ports, air and sea.*

*They will move from asking them to restrict movements for 14 days to asking new entrants to go into isolation for 14 days (how this is substantively different is still slightly unclear) - they currently have around 300 people a day arriving. This could have implications for how people coming into NI, and then travelling to Ireland are dealt with.*

NIO International team colleagues (copied) continue to monitor the situation and stand ready to engage with the Irish Government, and the Northern Irish Executive, as necessary.

If you would like to discuss this further please come back on the chain, copying the NIO International team.

Regards

**NR**

On Tue, 21 Apr 2020 at 17:57, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
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**NR**

**Northern Ireland Liaison, COVID-19 Secretariat (secondment)**

Private Secretary to Special Advisers

1 Horse Guards Road, London

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