



Northern
Ireland
Office

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Fwd: URGENT COMMISSION: Schools paper for COBR today

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

18 March 2020 at 12:41

To: Covid 19 <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>

See below - PM-chair COBR later today will be asked to agree:

- a proposal for an announcement later today that, from the start of next week, schools will be closed in their current form. Instead, schools are asked to put childcare provision in place to look after the children of 'key workers' and vulnerable students. DfE will work with schools to set up processes to manage this system;

- definition of key workers (see below) and vulnerable students;

- whether we need a consistent policy for all school aged children, or a focus on those who require childcare (e.g. esp primary);

- the clinical advice underlying this proposal [Please could SAGE / DHSC provide this directly to DfE copying the Secretariat and No 10];

- economic and wider impacts and mitigations [please could HMT provide this material];

- proposed messaging and approach to implementation.

- proposed approach to free school meals

- proposed messaging on exams (i.e. just say today that we obviously recognise this will have an impact, without necessarily saying what the answer is)

[Quoted text hidden]



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