



SOS Lewis &lt;old.sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk&gt;

## Quad - rough readout

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To: **NR** @nio.gov.uk, **NR** @nio.gov.uk, Robert Honey <robert.honey@nio.gov.uk>, PS St <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, **NR** @nio.gov.uk, Andy Pike <andy.pike@nio.gov.uk>, Mark Larmour <mark.larmour@nio.gov.uk>, Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, PSI <psi@nio.gov.uk>

All - thank you for efforts in preparing SoS for Quad. SoS was happy and felt it was 'a v positive meeting overall'

I'll put together a full readout and share with No10, BE Dublin later this eve/tomorrow, but see below for a rough readout

**NR**

**FM** - updated the group on NI modelling of effectiveness of social distancing. We have a press conference this afternoon with PSNI Chief Con to deliver a message on staying at home.

**dFM** - biggest enemy this weekend is complacency. **NR** driving the message home. We also have clarity on stopping people travelling to do exercise.

**RS** - modelling is starting to show expected deaths is declining but that is not a projection so we must be careful. We've managed to push up testing a bit alos. This weekend is going to everyone.

**T** - today or tomorrow, hopefully will have a detailed piece of work on modelling of the Irish data to see where the peak of this. Teams working on that have set targets for today or tomorrow credible estimates. We have been trying to deliver some hard hitting messaging this weekend. I'm not sure how well it is working, but I know we all have agreed a joint statement on this that. Hopefully a combination of PSNI/Gardai messaging and our messaging will land. Need to be careful. Signed a ministerial order to allow the Gardai to enforce the law, slow to do the worked, but feel we needed a harder edge for this weekend. Our numbers are not as bad as predicted at this stage. But hard to know what stage we are at, but hopefully have a better ic

**SoS** - Key purpose of COBR is so that we have an agreed message of not travelling. Some increased tourist activity has already been seen. We need people to take that message.

**T** - we have road checks in S, is that happening in NI?

**FM** - yes, those checkpoints are happening.

**SoS** - couple of LAs in UK have said to pubs having lock ins, we will revoke your licence - this shows how local messaging can work - the messaging must be consistent across local, na

**dFM** - glad that we have that consistent message across the island and islands. MoU - very pleased to see formalising of that. Obviously, we have a consistent message now. In the futu NI and Ire should move in tandem. Working very closely on the measures, if there is going to be a move in terms of relaxing

**SoS** - UK Government will be discussing. If we do have a difference in approach, key is communicating.

**T** - We will of course share any info that might be useful. One area of cooperation, repatriation flights. About 4.5k people have been assisted in getting back home - really good cooperati FCO. Particularly those on cruise liners. But we've also brought quite a few British people home, especially from India. Very good cooperation between FCO and DFAT, in relation to NI t useful if you have citizens in NI as either way (if they look to Irish or UK Gov) we need to get them home. Would be good to get a point of contact in the Exec on this. A lot of sharing of r be helpful. We need to make sure we don't take each other by surprise when taking different approaches about easing restrictions. Sometimes the advice is similar but different and sch example. We need to bear in mind that we're living on the same island. We need to start thinking about that weeks out to make sure the CMOs are talking and Public health advice is as possible. On PPE, exchange of letters between Health Mins. On frontier workers, have sent a letter to clarify.

**SoS** - be good to get a joint message on the frontier workers. If were taking diff approaches, we need to make sure we're communicating

**RS** - Repatriation flights - very helpful suggestion. NI CMO can take us through the modelling

**SH** - our national public health emergency team will recommend that existing restrictions remain in place for at least the next couple of weeks. Prepare people that there will be a new nc data with Robin.

**NI CMO** - In regular contact with Irish counterparts. Some challenges in all-island modelling data. In terms of the relaxation of the measures, it is a matter of fact we're likely to see differ may need different approaches and the public messaging is therefore key. On an all-island basis, we're working on medium/long term economic consequences.

**SoS** - Good to hear this work is going on behind the scenes

**dFM** - welcome the MoU. We all face the same challenge on PPE. No surprises in the future. But today, we're all on the same page

**FM** - Simon, can I raise an issue on freights, ports and haulage. Having the Irish Sea between NI and the UK. Conscious our oxygen comes through Dublin - we want to make sure we h steady supply

**T** - we put a 15m package in place to help the ferry route. We're very clear we need to keep airports and ports open for essential supplies. We may take a more restrictive approach on p haulage. If necessary, we will subsidise so that there is a consistency.

**FM** - anything for hauliers?

**T** - Just ferries at the minute. Hauliers are saying they have a problem as becoming more difficult to secure loads both ways. We haven't put anything in place for them just yet.

**SoS** - there is a real challenge to this. As a lot of hauliers make their profit on the return load. DFT SOS is cognisant of these issues.

**T** - we could maybe look at E/W basis and look at a joint funding package. Brandon, you and I could speak about this. Arlene - supply chain to dublin airport for oxygen, if you're noticing me know

**SoS** - great, I'll pick you up on the joint E/W funding point. We have an agreed statement that our teams were putting together so let's get that out.

All agreed

On Thu, 9 Apr 2020 at 12:18, SOS Lewis <old.sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

All,

As a round up of where we are. SoS is happy with the briefing he has, so all good from that perspective. Zoom details are circulated.

**NR** Bob - statement is still with FM & dFM I understand but their SpAds were fine? No10 fine but want sight of the final version. That will go out straight after the meeting. **Is the stati pushed on twitter?**

**NR** - video clip? I trust this is recorded & ready to go post Quad? **Is this going on twitter?**

Am I missing anything?

**NR**

On Thu, 9 Apr 2020 at 09:44, **NR** <@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
Just to keep the chain posted - SOS has cleared, as have the DUP and SF.

Bob - think it's just over to you now to share with EIS (flagging **NR** and **NR** have already cleared) and No10, but hopefully we should be ready to go post Quad

**NR**

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 17:11, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
And to confirm, I think we can take it that this is happening now - so the SoS tweet for this evening can go up

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 17:08, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
And assuming we'll then run past No10?

**NR**

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 17:06, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
Thanks all, will send on to SoS now

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 17:00, Isabel Bruce <isabel.bruce@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
That's fine by me - thank you. Think addition of Easter appeal is good too - SoS will be doing his own on Friday.

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 16:42, **NR** <@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
Isabel

New statement through from the Irish, it includes;

- **Irrelevant & Sensitive**
- they've added an Easter appeal to stay home, which also looks fine

I've attached a track change version done using compare and contrast so you can see their edits. In the interests of speed, I think we should now get these up to Tanaist shout if you'd like any further changes - Tanaiste might make more himself

Lemme know if you want to discuss

**NR**

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 14:52, Isabel Bruce <isabel.bruce@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
If we do a tweet at 5pm (assume PO can confirm it is definitely going ahead) - would edit slightly as this only second call (despite the fact we plan for them to be regular more of the fact that SoS is jointly chairing this with SC.

Myself and @simoncovenev will be jointly chairing our second virtual meeting tomorrow with @DUPLeader, @moneillsf [please also tag health ministers here] to discuss public health response to #COVID19. The virus doesn't respect borders or boundaries and we all agree on the need for ongoing North/South collaboration so we can't together. #StayHomeSaveLives

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 14:32, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
Meeting is now in for **1.15-2pm**.

Given how much it has moved around though, pls do a final check in with me before we plan to send the tweet.

**NR**

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 13:33, Robert Honey <robert.honey@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
As well as the video message and joint statement, we would also recommend a tweet later this afternoon (after 5pm, assuming the meeting is locked down - grate can confirm when that is) from SoSNI's account to say:

I'll be meeting @simoncovenev, @DUPLeader and @moneillsf tomorrow for our second regular call to discuss to #covid19. The virus doesn't respect borders and we all agree we need to pull together and do everything we it. #StayHomeSaveLives



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On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 12:59, Isabel Bruce <isabel.bruce@nio.gov.uk> wrote:  
Thanks **NR** Few suggested edits from me in red below.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis and the Tánaiste, Simon Coveney today jointly chaired a second conference call with Minister Arlene Foster, deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Health Minister Robin Swann and Minister for Health Simon Harris to discuss the response to COVID-19 on the island of Ireland.

All participants welcomed the signing this week of the Memorandum of Understanding to formalise the continued North/South co-operation public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the mutual benefit of everyone on the island of Ireland.

They reviewed the latest developments on a North/South and East-West basis and discussed a range of issues of common interest to combat including PPE provision, social distancing and testing. They asked that Health Ministers, in conjunction with CMOs, continue to work closely to facilitate this joined-up public health response.

They once again expressed their deep gratitude for the continuing courageous and dedicated efforts of health and social care workers, official working incredibly hard to respond to the challenges of the pandemic.

The participants agreed that continued close contact and cooperation on behalf of all the people of the island was essential and would be maintained through regular meetings in this format.

**END**

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 12:46, [redacted]@nio.gov.uk wrote:  
Sorry, ignore the bit about Monday, Quad **TOMORROW**

On Wed, 8 Apr 2020 at 12:38, [redacted]@nio.gov.uk wrote:  
Isabel, **NR**

Please find below a draft statement for the Quad Monday, I'll fire off a script to comms shortly (which will be loosely based around the statement)

The Tánaiste's officials won't but it to the Tánaiste to clear the statement til a new time for the Quad is confirmed **NR** is doing a stellar job taking this for a new time is locked in we will get him to clear it quickly and then get it onto DUP/SF so a statement is ready to go immediately after a quad. We will also proceed by number 10 in parallel.

**NR**

**START**

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis and the Tánaiste, Simon Coveney today jointly chaired a second conference with Minister Arlene Foster, deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Health Minister Robin Swann and Minister for Health Simon Harris to discuss COVID-19 on the island of Ireland.

The participants welcomed the signing this week of the Memorandum of Understanding to formalise the close ongoing North South co-operation public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

They reviewed the latest developments on a North/South and East-West basis and discussed a range of issues of common interest to both including PPE provision, social distancing and testing. They asked that Health Ministers, in conjunction with CMOs, continue to maintain close work together for the mutual benefit of all.

They once again jointly expressed their deep gratitude for the continuing courageous and dedicated efforts of health workers, officials and respond to COVID-19.

The participants agreed that continued close contact and cooperation on behalf of all the people of the island was essential and would be maintained through regular meetings in this format.

**END**



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