



Northern
Ireland
Office

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

Update from CO ahead of COBR

NR @nio.gov.uk

22 September 2020 at 11:10

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

Cc: Min Walker <min.walker@nio.gov.uk>, Covid 19 Mailbox <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>

Thanks NR will do!

On Tue, 22 Sep 2020 at 12:09, SOS Lewis <sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

Thanks NR

I understand from the meeting that the DFM requested a tweak to the Joint Statement - unsure where this has got to so worth chasing your end, but I've asked that they share any proposed changes with us.

NR

On Tue, 22 Sep 2020 at 09:20, NR @nio.gov.uk wrote:

Private Office, SLT,

Ahead of COBR this morning, I've received a few updates from CO. The agenda is set to be:

1. Situation update from CMO/CSA
2. Response to the situation - set out broad areas where the 4 nations are committing to taking action, comms, enforcement, hospitality, helping the vulnerable.
3. Joint statement will be coming out after.

Please see below for more detail. The key points are that DA's are keen to discuss financial support and NI do not expect to align on hospitality closing times - which Scotland and Wales might. There were also complaints that UKG briefed the media on decisions before COBR - challenging the role of COBR as a decision making forum.

Thanks,

NR

Detail on UKG announcements and DA points

Scottish FM will talk about financial support on item 2. Wales would also raise this.

Joint statement will not necessarily be finished in the meeting, could be a commitment to take it away and finish off.

Hospitality restrictions might on GB but not NI: England will restrict opening hours for restaurants, bars and entertainment. Nothing opens from 10pm-5am. Table service only. [NI will be 11 pm]. Scotland will probably align on 10pm. They already have the table service restrictions. Wales will look into this. There are restrictions in place for locked down areas (11pm close)

Covid-19 secure practice will be put in law for all businesses in England. Other DA's have done this already. This does not extend to Higher Education, will be covered by guidance.

UK wedding numbers will go down to 15 with receptions still allowed. No move from DA's to align.

UK indoor team sport will not be allowed.

Scotland will change so that no mixing of households indoors and outdoor mixing should only be up to 6.

England Face Coverings: To align with Scotland indoor hospitality, employees have to wear as well well customers.

England stadiums and business events crowds returning: Postponed from October.

England / UK Tiers: Discussions are continuing no decision.

England WFH Messaging: Work from home when you can, essential public services excluded.

Scotland will largely align / support at the moment, cabinet pending.

Wales will take further steps on local lockdowns and do something for licensing hours.

--



NR

Healthcare Lead
Constitution, Rights and Healthcare Policy Group
1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ
Mobile: **I&S**
www.gov.uk/nio | Follow us on Twitter [@NIOgov](https://twitter.com/NIOgov)

--



NIO Private Office
1 Horse Guards Road, London
Stormont House, Belfast
sos.lewis@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter [@NIOgov](https://twitter.com/NIOgov)

--



NR

Healthcare Lead
Constitution, Rights and Healthcare Policy Group
1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ
Mobile: **I&S**
www.gov.uk/nio | Follow us on Twitter [@NIOgov](https://twitter.com/NIOgov)