

Northern  
Ireland  
Office

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

**[READOUT] Prime Minister phone call with the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland**

NR via PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk> 17 December 2021 at 21:08  
 Reply-To: NR @no10.gov.uk  
 To: "Northern Ireland Office - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (ps.sos@nio.gov.uk)" <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, MaryJo McKeever <maryjo.mckeever@nio.gov.uk>  
 Cc: NR @no10.gov.uk, PM Private Office Support Team - Internal <pmpost.int@no10.gov.uk>, Sue Gray <sue.gray@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, PS Steve Barclay Mailbox <psstevebarclay@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, PSMichaelGove <PSMichaelGove@communities.gov.uk>, NR @hmtreasury.gov.uk, PS Sue Gray Mailbox <pssuegray@cabinetoffice.gov.uk>, NR @no10.gov.uk

Hi MaryJo

The Prime Minister spoke to the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on 17 December to discuss the ongoing response to the Omicron variant. The Prime Minister opened the call by noting that while cases were low in Northern Ireland, it was important to work together.

The First Minister explained that pressure on the health service was being managed but there were indications that case numbers would increase. The First Minister indicated that the national booster campaign was helping but that further clarity on next steps for England would help them plan in Northern Ireland. The deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland noted the challenge in planning interventions as additional funding was only unlocked if money was spent in England. The deputy First Minister suggested that this was unsustainable.

The Prime Minister asked what measures the Northern Ireland Executive were considering, and the First Minister set out his desire to align with UK wide proposals which had support from HM Treasury. The Prime Minister noted that engagement with HM Treasury would continue and offered an invite to a COBR meeting in the coming days to discuss workforce planning. The deputy First Minister reiterated her view that funding would be needed to address concerns from business.

The First Minister noted that consideration of the situation in the Republic of Ireland was also needed. Concluding, the Prime Minister agreed and thanked Ministers for their time.

I am copying this readout to colleagues in HMT, CO, DLUHC and PMPOST for the record.

Thanks

NR

NR

Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister | 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA |

I&amp;S

For latest news and information from Downing Street visit: <http://www.gov.uk/number10>  
 Follow Number 10 on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/10DowningStreet>  
 Help save paper - do you need to print this email?

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the email.

BKL00000547

INQ000421595\_0001

This footnote also confirms that our email communications may be monitored to ensure the secure and effective operation of our systems and for other lawful purposes, and that this email has been swept for malware and viruses.

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "PS SOS" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [ps.sos+unsubscribe@nio.gov.uk](mailto:ps.sos+unsubscribe@nio.gov.uk).

To view this discussion on the web, visit [https://groups.google.com/a/nio.gov.uk/d/msgid/ps.sos/](https://groups.google.com/a/nio.gov.uk/d/msgid/ps.sos/CWLP123MB30251E9D7EA428FADBCFF11681789%40CWLP123MB3025.GBRP123.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM)

CWLP123MB30251E9D7EA428FADBCFF11681789%40CWLP123MB3025.GBRP123.PROD.OUTLOOK.COM.