



Northern
Ireland
Office

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Readouts of NI party leader calls on **I&S**

1 message

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

17 March 2020 at 20:19

To: Oliver Legard <oliver.legard@nio.gov.uk>, Isabel Bruce <isabel.bruce@nio.gov.uk>

Cc: SpAds PS <spads.ps@nio.gov.uk>, PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>

Please see below for the readouts from calls with party leaders on the **I&S** Steve Aiken wasn't available to talk – SoS is ringing him at 9am tomorrow. **Oliver** I've flagged where SoS suggested you pick up with party leaders' offices at SpAd level - worth sighting **NR** so officials are kept abreast of any engagement.

Arlene Foster, DUP – 17:25

- On Covid-19, AF said she expected school closures soon – the Executive had held the line on keeping them open so far but was receiving lots of pressure on the issue. SoS flagged that Gavin Williamson would call her this evening. AF said she wanted to see a four nation approach to this issue.
- SoS explained the content of the MoD legislation and the NIO WMS, and committed to a programme of intensive engagement with stakeholders over the next few weeks.

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Colum Eastwood, SDLP – 17:45

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Michelle O'Neil, SF – 17:50

- SoS flagged this evening's HMT and PM announcement for support for businesses given Covid-19.

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Naomi Long, Alliance – 18:00

- SoS flagged this evening's HMT and PM announcement for support for businesses given Covid-19. NL asked about the arrangements for NI businesses applying for support. SoS said his understanding was businesses would not need to duplicate applications for support for NI Executive and UKG.
- SoS explained the MoD were laying their legislation tomorrow and stressed that it does not cover NI. NL asked why SoS didn't trust the CPS to prevent vexatious claims. SoS said that he didn't want to debate that point given the MoD bill doesn't apply to activity in NI.

I&S

NR

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