

Northern
Ireland
Office

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COMMISSION | Quad briefing, statement and comms plan

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To: Covid 19 Mailbox <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>

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Thanks all for briefing - will send round a proper readout later but see below for a rough one.

ACTIONS [redacted] SoS and Tánaiste agreed with Min Harris' point regarding trying to put out a joint communication to reinforce both government's advice was still against non-essential international travel. Please could you pick up with Irish counterparts on whether this is doable - though it feels this could be a trickier message than it is worth.

Comms - please could the post-Quad tweet be put out

[redacted] NR [redacted]

QUAD | readout

SOS updated on the current UKG border regulations and implementation.

FM not too much at the minute, no issues raised by the police

T slightly different system, but very much complementary. Outlined current Irish position and legislation and enforcement measures. Seeking to achieve a similar outcome but slightly different. Relied on passenger locator form. Complicated on travel within CTA and travel generally. We haven't made a distinction between Irish people or others. Everyone is benign asked to self-isolate. We are going to review that. We are now starting to talk about EU countries regarding travel zones/travel bubbles with countries of the same risk levels or less. Senior officials talking back and forth about how best to do that. May change in July. We don't have a basis for that decision just yet. Airlines now aggressively advertising to try to get people travelling. View from airlines that the restrictive nature will have

SOS FCO position is still no non-essential travel.

RS - in regard to travel, NI and Irish officials working together to implement border measures. 0 deaths yesterday. Less than 50 positives since 24 May. Starting to see a decrease in outbreaks in care homes. We are going in the right direction. Exec will meet on Thurs to look at relaxing restrictions. Said the snap announcement on Friday from Ireland caught NI by surprise so would be grateful for further advance notice. Looking at how

SH - delighted to see no deaths in NI for past 2 days. We need to see progress across the whole of the Island. On the travel advice, would be very helpful to reiterate the non-essential travel. We should take every single opportunity to reiterate the public health advice. We should not let Michael O'Leary dictate travel advice. We are in a good and stable phase. R below 1. Very marginal movement in the R number - between 0.4 and 0.7 4 days in a row of less than 30 new cases. A lot of testing but not a huge amount of referrals from GPs. Begin to target testing on vulnerable sectors - for example on nursing homes. Good and encouraging signs in care homes. Independent panel on care homes established. Commenced phase 2, retail back, increased movement. Getting through phase 2.

SOS seeing a similar pattern across UK. We should reinforce the point around essential travel against non-essential travel, making people pause and think before booking international travel.

T - each time we make announcement. We have practical issues that it is very hard to talk to people in an Executive before Irish cabinet. Understood that CMOs. When Taoiseach and I spoke with Michelle and Arelene - I did

understand that would put pressure in NI. 29 June - more important on coordination, as looking to open up with tourism industry. Officials should talk to each other. I do take the point that our announcements mean the Exec get questions. I do acknowledge that issue.

SOS - timing particularly important for the next quad. UK points are looking at 15 June and 4 July.

DFM - important to have convo on. NI hope to move further on CMO advice. Crucial elements on where to go next particularly on 1/2m. Keen that we can arrive at that point together to avoid right/wrong. Important for schools/hospitality. Our assessment is it isn't right at the minute. Face masks - mandatory in public transport. We don't want to run ahead of each other.

SOS - on hospitality industry, outlined the impact of a shift to 1m with 75% being viable in hospitality but only 30% at 2m.

T - hospitality sector think 80000 job losses at 2m and only 10000 at 1m. Must have data to ensure that we understand the public health/economic risk when making decisions.

SH - outlined considerations for specific hospitality considerations.

RS - outlined the time consideration which goes alongside the 1/2m discussion.

FM - discussion at Exec on Thursday on stocktake.

T - asked for an update on the app.

SOS - updated on app and said that the app was still running in the pilot phase at the moment. Said that would be good to get Education ministers together.

T - agree with the Education ministers point. May be useful to have next Quad meeting in advance of the 29 June

SH - first step of proposals being brought to Cabinet by Education Sec next week so we'll be in a position to share.

T - schools will be opening in July but only for a certain category of children

SOS - thanked all for joining



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NR

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