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**From:** McBride, Michael [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=99999965]  
**Sent:** 27/05/2021 20:55:09  
**To:** Young, Ian (Prof.) [ian.young2@health-ni.gov.uk]  
**Subject:** FW: Written Ministerial Statement

For information

Michael

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

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**From:** McBride, Michael <[Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 May 2021, 7:44 pm  
**To:** Pengelly, Richard <[Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** DoH Permanent Secretary <[Permanent.Secretary@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Permanent.Secretary@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Written Ministerial Statement

Richard

As mentioned earlier and apologies for troubling you with this just on the off chance is raised directly with you as Karen continues to press for our sign off.

We very clearly provided our advice to the Executive earlier today. In the circumstances we would be conflicted in providing any further input or commentary on the WMS which is at odds with our professional advice and the views and concerns of our Minister.

The Minister is clear this was an Executive decision and a matter for TEO.

Michael

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**From:** DoH SpAd <[spad@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:spad@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 May 2021, 5:35 pm  
**To:** McBride, Michael <[Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk)>, Young, Ian (Prof.) <[Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk)>, Gordon, David <[David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk)> [REDACTED] NR [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Written Ministerial Statement

All, see Robin's thoughts below.

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**From:** DoH Minister <[minister@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:minister@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 May 2021, 5:30 pm  
**To:** DoH SpAd <[spad@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:spad@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Written Ministerial Statement

Hi,

I don't think it would be appropriate for us to approve or not approve this release, the decision is a policy one taken by the Executive.

regards,

**Robin Swann MLA**  
Minister of Health

C5.10, Castle Buildings,  
Stormont.

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**From:** DoH SpAd  
**Sent:** 27 May 2021 17:28  
**To:** DoH Minister <[minister@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:minister@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Written Ministerial Statement  
**Importance:** High

See chain below. I think they'd like a steer as to whether you're content for them not to get involved and be used as cover by TEO for this.

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**From:** McBride, Michael  
**Sent:** 27 May 2021 17:22  
**To:** Young, Ian (Prof.) <[Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Gordon, David <[David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk)>; DoH SpAd <[spad@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:spad@health-ni.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Written Ministerial Statement  
**Importance:** High

Ian

I am not clear it is appropriate for us to comment on this as what is proposed as it is at complete odds with our professional advice and the concerns of our Minister.

Furthermore as we pointed out at the Executive meeting, the mitigations as proposed are not likely to be sufficient in terms of the attendant risks of accelerating the introduction of VOC B1.617.2.

It is also possible as I indicated that the MHRA may challenge this use of LFDs to "test to enable."

Mark, the Minister will have a view.

Michael  
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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Holmes, Jane <[Jane.Holmes@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Holmes@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)>

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**Date:** Thursday, 27 May 2021, 4:59 pm

**To:** McBride, Michael <[Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk)>, Young, Ian (Prof.) <[Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** **NR** <[NR@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:NR@health-ni.gov.uk)>, Colgan, Elaine <[Elaine.Colgan@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Colgan@health-ni.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Written Ministerial Statement

Michael and Ian,

Below is the draft text for the written ministerial statement following the Executive discussion this morning.

Elaine has advised that you would be best placed to review. Could you advise if you are content or of any changes, please?

Grateful for a response ASAP, please.

Many thanks

Jane

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## **WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT FROM THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER – DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE ON COVID-19, 27 MAY 2021**

Thanks to the efforts of the public and the continued success of our vaccination programme, we are in a position to signal further relaxations in relation to outdoor sport and travel to here from within the Common Travel Area.

In relation to our previous decisions, which come into place on 31 May, subject to a review on the 27 May, we have decided the following:

### **Competitive indoor sport**

Further to a return to indoor club training in squads from 24 May, the Executive today confirmed that **indoor competitive sport** could return from **31 May**, noting that the Covid data continues to have a generally positive direction of travel. No spectators are permitted, changing and shower facilities remain closed (except where essential) and no mixing or social interaction is permitted outside of the controlled environment.

The Executive recognizes the steps the sector has taken to be ready for resumption of competitive indoor sport and it is important that we give clarity as soon as we can.

### **Travel to here from within the Common Travel Area**

The Executive also agreed to relax the guidance on travel to NI from within the Common Travel Area (CTA) with effect from **[dd mm]**.

Under the new arrangements, anyone travelling from the CTA wishing to stay here overnight is asked to take an LFD test before they make the journey and only travel if the test is negative. Travellers are also asked to take an LFD test on days two and eight of their stay, and to self-isolate if positive after their arrival.

People should not make the journey if they have Covid symptoms; and must not travel if they know they have Covid-19.

The decision removes the current requirement for those visiting or returning to Northern Ireland from within the CTA to self-isolate.

The Executive has made this decision taking into account public health advice that there are higher rates of prevalence of variants of concern (VOCs) in other regions of the CTA. It is, therefore, essential that the new

guidance in relation to travel to here from within the CTA is adhered to in order to reduce the potential of community transfer of these variants of concern.

We ask everyone to take care of yourselves and each other, remember outdoors is generally safer than indoors and please continue to follow public health advice.