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MEMORANDUM E (20) 40

FROM: FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

DATE: 26 MARCH 2020

TO: EXECUTIVE

FINAL EXECUTIVE PAPER - COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES – KEY WORKERS

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Executive with further information on what would be regarded as essential services and employment in the context of the social distancing measures introduced during the ongoing health emergency.
2. With the introduction of the rules, special provisions are needed to cater for people considered to be key workers – i.e. those whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response, including those working in in the health and social care sector as well as those carrying out roles crucial to the provision of essential services such as education and childcare, transport, food and delivery, utilities, communications, public safety and the government.
3. The Executive had an initial conversation about social distancing impacts at its meeting on 24th March, including in relation to the circumstances where it would be permissible for people to leave their home for the purposes of going to work in essential service or employment. During the discussion and as basis for further consideration of the matter at forthcoming Executive meetings, it was agreed that officials should be asked for an assessment of what would constitute “essential services or employment”.
4. This has now been done and the details are set out in the attached list. It includes input from every department and has relevance across the whole range of Covid-19 response measures.

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Recommendation

5. The Executive is invited to note the information on essential services and employment for use during further Executive discussions about the Covid-19 response.

**THE RT. HON. ARLENE FOSTER MLA
FIRST MINISTER**

**MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

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