

OFFICIAL - EXECUTIVE

E (M) (20) 40

DRAFT MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 29 JUNE 2020

MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO LINK

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Justice

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)
Secretary to the Executive
Head of Executive & Central Advisory Division TEO

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer
Prof Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser

INTRODUCTION

The deputy First Minister chaired agenda item 1 – 4

1. The deputy First Minister advised that preparations were being made to return to face to face meetings as soon as suitable social distancing and technical arrangements could be put in place.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 39 Minutes of Executive meeting of 25 June 2020

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2. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 25 June 2020 were agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Health Minister

3. The Minister of Health provided an update on developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including zero cases in ICUs for the past three days; reduced numbers of cases in hospitals and in care homes, but also a small increase in positive tests in recent days; testing of staff and residents of care homes; and proposed recovery plans for Trusts for the July-September period.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

4. The deputy First Minister advised that the Action Log had been circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COVID-19 Management

E (20) 160 (C) First Review of the International Travel Regulations (NI)

5. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
6. The Executive:
 - a. agreed that the International Travel Regulations (NI) were still required; and
 - b. noted that a further paper would issue for discussion at the Executive meeting of 2 July, with proposed amendments.

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E (20) 159 (C) Moving from 10 to 30 for Outdoor Gatherings

7. The deputy First Minister introduced this paper.
8. The First Minister thanked the officials of the Department of Health for the work that had enabled this paper to be included on the Executive agenda today.
9. Following discussion, the Executive:
 - (i) agreed to move in line with the Plan and increase the number of people who could meet outside from 10 to 30, including for outdoor weddings and attendance at burials; and
 - (ii) noted that this did not change the situation for indoor home visits, pubs and restaurants, or hotel conventions.
10. It was agreed that messaging to reinforce the continuing need for social distancing and other health protection measures would be reiterated during media activity following the Executive meeting.
11. Junior Minister Lyons requested that that clarification of the legal position of driving instructors engaging in business be provided. The Minister for Infrastructure advised that engagement was ongoing with Trade Unions in relation to guidance for a resumption of driving tests.
12. It was agreed that further mitigations advice in relation to outdoor events should be provided for consideration at the Executive meeting of 2 July.

E (20) 157 (C) COVID-19 – Options Paper – Economic Policy Response and Interventions

13. The Minister for the Economy introduced this paper,

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14. Following discussion, the Executive agreed to give consideration to further proposals put forward for the reinvestment of the potential under spend of circa £65million from the three economic support schemes.

15. The Executive agreed that a meeting focused fully on COVID-19 recovery should take place as soon as possible in the following week.

The First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Schedule of Events/Media/Ad Hoc Committee

16. The First Minister requested that Ministers advise of an intention to make statements to the Assembly or address the Ad Hoc Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Other Matters requiring Executive Agreement

Irrelevant & Sensitive

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Note of Urgent Decisions

19. The Executive noted the following urgent decision taken in accordance with paragraph 2.14 of the Ministerial Code:

Irrelevant & Sensitive

E (UP) (20) 24	Financial Support for Connectivity and Airports
E (UP) (20) 25	Public Expenditure 2020-21 June Monitoring Round and COVID-19 Re-Priorisation

20. The Minister for Infrastructure recorded her view that the Urgent Decision procedure was an inappropriate means for handling the Minister of Finance's paper on **Irrelevant & Sensitive** and COVID-19 Re-Priorisation.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Any other business

Three meeting rule

21. The Minister of Finance requested clarification on application of the Three Meeting Rule to his request for consideration of his paper on **I&S** **I&S** and COVID-19 Re-Priorisation at the Executive meeting of 25 June. **LPP/LAP**

LPP/LAP

22. Following discussion, it was agreed that this issue should be discussed under the auspices of the Party Leaders' Forum.

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Irrelevant & Sensitive

Face Coverings on Public Transport

24. The Minister for Infrastructure requested early Executive consideration of her paper on Mandatory Face Coverings on Public Transport. The First Minister advised that legal advice on the matter was being sought.

Date of next meeting

25. The next Executive meeting would take place on Thursday 2 July at 10.00 a.m.