

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

To: Mark Larmour <mark.larmour@nio.gov.uk>

Cc: **Name Redacted** <[REDACTED]@nio.gov.uk>, Colin Perry <colin.perry@nio.gov.uk>, Holly Clark <holly.clark@nio.gov.uk>, Madeleine Alessandri <madeleine.alessandri@nio.gov.uk>, Paul Flynn <paul.flynn@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, SpAds PS <spads.ps@nio.gov.uk>, PSI <psi@nio.gov.uk>, **Name Redacted** <[REDACTED]@nio.gov.uk>

Subject: READOUT & ACTIONS | FM, dFM call - 27 Mar

Date: Fri, 27 Mar 2020 15:10:36 +0000

Actions:

NR please could you just double check that TEO are aware of the guidance that Public Health England put out this week regarding going to work and social distancing at work - i think it was section 4 from memory.

- **PSI NR** please could you check in and try to find out re. the Health MOU that dFM raised and said could be agreed at the meeting next week with UKG, IG and NIE. Grateful if we could ensure that we aren't cutting across anything by being in attendance and any advance sight of what it will say.

Happy to discuss

Readout:

Overall, a positive conversation. FM and dFM did not raise any unexpected issues and seemed receptive to SOS' support and his suggestion of doing this twice weekly from next week onwards.

- SoS praised FM and dFM recent coordination, especially the Mother's Day message.
- dFM welcomed the self employed announcement. But said there was still a lack of clarity around the job retention scheme and which companies are eligible. She thought messaging was contradictory - health advice is stay at home but economic advice is go to work. People want clarity and certainty but unfortunately we don't have it.
- SoS recognised that one of the challenges is the messaging around staying at home and outlined the current UK government guidelines surrounding this.
- FM - raised the middle group of people who can go to work if the appropriate safety procedures are in place as the difficult one. Some workers say the work I'm doing is not essential so why am I at work? They asked whether there is any clear guidance that we can share?. **Covid team - grateful for views but don't think there is anything other than re-sharing Public Health England guidance from this week?**
- SoS spoke about getting a call in with Tánaiste present next Tuesday. dFM said that if an Ire and NI health MoU was ready to be politically agreed at that meeting, that could be the outcome (Robin Swann suggested it was ready). **PSI/covid - grateful if we could have a look into this**
- FM said looking for support from UKG on procurement of PPE and ventilators. SoS said that he would push for NI to get the right support.
- dFM said she thought the approach to testing was too slow and that led to people being out of work for a longer period of time. SoS outlined the key will be a reliable test that is able to not only show if someone has covid, but if someone has had covid. Said he had heard it will be

ready 'soon'. dFM asked for an indication on the timeframe of this test. SoS said as soon as he finds out he will let them know.

- FM seeking to avail of any crisis response help. Mark L outlined current work ongoing with NICS and Colin P spoke regarding the connectivity work being undertaken to ensure that NI and UK commercial and freight lines stay open.
- SoS and FM/dFM agreed that they should continue to meet a couple of times a week in this format to discuss the covid-19 response.

On Fri, 27 Mar 2020 at 13:14, Mark Larmour <mark.larmour@nio.gov.uk> wrote:
Ok

On Fri, 27 Mar 2020 at 13:13, **Name Redacted** <Name Redacted@nio.gov.uk> wrote:

All, to confirm attendance from our side for the 2.15 meeting and please also find the zoom details below:

Secretary of State
Oliver Legard/Isabel Bruce (SpAds)
Mark Larmour
Colin Perry
Ciarán Hayes (PPS); **NR**

Grateful if you could be on zoom 5 mins early and make sure you are named as yourself so we can check who is on the line

Join Zoom Meeting

I&S

I&S

FM, dFM call

When Fri 27 Mar 2020 2:15pm – 2:45pm United Kingdom Time

- Who
- SOS Lewis- organiser
 - **Name Redacted** creator
 - Oliver Legard
 - Isabel Bruce
 - diarybrandon@gmail.com
 - Brandon Lewis71
 - SOS Diary
 - brandon.lewis.mp@parliament.uk
 - **Name Redacted**
 - SpAds PS
 - Mark Larmour
 - Madeleine Alessandri
 - Paul Flynn
 - Holly Clark
 - Colin Perry

Topic: FM/dFM Meeting
Time: Mar 27, 2020 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

I&S

I&S

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Regards,

Mark Larmour



Director (Political, Security & Engagement)

Northern Ireland Office, Stormont House, Stormont Estate, BELFAST BT4 3SH

e: mark.larmour@nio.gov.uk, t: **Irrelevant & Sensitive** w: www.gov.uk/nio t:
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Ciarán Hayes (PP)

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