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**Subject:** Re: [For comment] C-19 lessons learned and options for a review

**Date:** Wed, 24 Jun 2020 14:29:00 +0100

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H [redacted] NR [redacted]

Thanks very much for sight of this, and apologies for the delay in getting it back to you. We agree that option 1A seems appropriate in terms of a review. We also generally agree with the points covered in the report - particularly those around the value of having DAs present at MIGs and in SAGE, and the importance of making decisions based on a shared analytical picture. We would add that we derived significant benefit from the weekly Union call, so might be good to highlight that somewhere.

We do think that there are a few issues that could be drawn out more in the report. Obviously the challenge of ensuring DAs are sufficiently sighted given the pace of the response has been mentioned, but we did find that despite the structures in place, relatively often DAs were informed of key changes to policy direction far too late (e.g. T&T app, decrease to 1m social distancing) and it was sometimes unclear whether they were England-only or UK-wide. On T&T and JBC in particular, we have had some complaints from NICS about the lack of engagement (though I believe this has improved recently).

The other point we would suggest really emphasising is around the importance of understanding the unique circumstances in each of the DAs. They seem to sometimes be treated as a single entity as opposed to three separate administrations with some significant differences (e.g. NI has the border with ROI, a power sharing government, etc.) - whereas we would likely get better results by adapting plans for engagement depending on the specific DA.

Finally, we'd definitely recommend some DA engagement in the review - we'd probably suggest the NI Hub.

Hope that's helpful, please let me know if you have any questions. Also, it'd be really helpful if you could copy the Covid-19 Mailbox (cc'd) into requests like this in future, just to ensure they get picked up as quickly as possible!

Thanks,

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**Subject:** [For comment] C-19 lessons learned and options for a review

Hello all,

As Zainab mentioned on the call earlier, attached is a draft note summarising some initial thoughts on lessons learned from the UK-wide approach to C-19 response and some proposals for a further systematic review. We're currently likely to recommend pursuing option 1A.

We would be grateful for any comments you may have by **2pm tomorrow** so we can submit for Thursday's box.

I'd also be grateful for your thoughts on whether we should include the DAs in any review that might be pursued - doing so has some obvious benefits but also a few risks.

Thanks very much

NR

NR

Team leader | UK Devolution Strategy Division | Constitution Group

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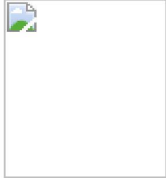
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