

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
Diane Dodds MLA



From: Diane Dodds MLA
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To: Robin Swann
Minister for Health

THE USE OF PROXIMITY APPS TO SUPPORT THE TEST, TRACE AND PROTECT (TTP) STRATEGY

Thank you for your letter of 11 June 2020 regarding the use of Proximity Apps to support the Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) Strategy.

We have made significant progress in recent weeks in getting our economy moving again, adjusting to the new normal with safe workplaces, and building consumer confidence. More parts of our economy need to follow to avoid many thousands of jobs being lost and livelihoods being ruined.

These next steps to reduce the risk of long-term scarring on the economy and society will only be sustainable if our public health system is strong enough to detect and respond to cases.

Our people need to feel safe in their workplace and have confidence that the Executive is working to protect them. The availability of guidance and the support of HSENI is instrumental in building this confidence, but this must be supported by effective tracking and isolation of transmission chains.

The update on progress towards the launch of NHS, Rol and NI Proximity Apps is useful, but it remains uncertain when a tracing regime which builds the confidence of our people will be delivered. We need to urgently move from the conditional language of 'intend' and 'could' to fixed dates or, better still, 'ready to go'.

I am copying this to the Attorney General, Departmental Solicitor's Office, First Legislative Counsel and to Executive Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

Personal Data

DIANE DODDS MLA
Minister for the Economy