

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
Diane Dodds MLA



From: Diane Dodds MLA
Minister for the Economy

Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
Belfast BT4 2JP
Tel: **I&S**
email: private.office@economy-ni.gov.uk

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To: Jenny Pyper
Head of the Civil Service

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Covid-19 Relaxations

As I understand it officials have been in contact around the emerging packages of relaxations that are being crafted for consideration by the Executive on 15th April. I have concerns around the sequencing within those packages. In a nutshell the public would expect us to prioritise activities that involve more of an essential component as opposed to a leisure component. As a result we need to bring forward close contact services and non-essential retail into the package being prioritised for opening on 22/23 April. My officials will follow up on any of the details around this request at the TEO led group.

There is also the difficult task of judging the quantum of proposals that might be put forward at any one review point – balancing health economic and societal factors. With the sectors that are closed we are overwhelming leaving behind the lowest paid in our society, and for those who still have a job in those sectors they are endeavouring to survive on 80% of what is often the minimum or living wage. With such difficult issues at play it is important that the Executive has the scope to make choices, and that means ensuring the packages presented to the Executive are wide and varied.

This will also be important in the context of what is moving quickly around us elsewhere in the UK, and the need to bring the public along with us in what has been a difficult journey for so many in our society.

Personal Data

DIANE DODDS MLA
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