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Subject: CDL Covid call with DAs

Date: Wed, 10 Mar 2021 19:18:00 +0000

All,

Please see below a readout of the CDL call with DA First Ministers this afternoon that Minister Walker attended.

[redacted] Name Redacted

- CDL opened the meeting noting he would welcome colleagues' thoughts on the vaccine certification and asked if the DAs would be open to agreeing a joint statement thanking the NHS for their actions ahead of the forthcoming elections.
- The Scottish First Minister noted that given the ongoing NHS pay issues, she did not feel a joint statement was appropriate and would prefer to discuss the pay raise further. The Minister noted she was keen to discuss vaccine certification further, but would welcome more detail and clarity that the vaccine has had an effect on rates of transmission first.
- The NI First Minister commented that the Executive would review restrictions next Tuesday and hoped to ease some restrictions with definitive dates. The Minister raised the travel locator form issue and data sharing with Ireland. She asked CDL to engage with this matter and speak to Simon Coveney to find a resolution as the issue had been going on for too long.
- The deputy First Minister noted the First Minister's sentiments and noted that a 1% raise for NHS staff was a slap in the face.
- The Welsh First Minister noted that his officials had not had much communication from CO on vaccine certification and asked for this to be increased. He noted that there was an issue at Holyhead port with travellers from red list countries arriving from Dublin. This was causing concern about travel and managing isolation. With regards to a joint statement, the Minister felt this would not be appropriate, but would be happy to look at a draft that included more assurances for NHS staff.
- Minister Walker noted that there was still no agreement on data sharing, but that CO and the NIO were working to find an agreement and that the Irish Government's introduction of managed isolation should help on the point of travel.
- CDL stressed that he will ask DHSC to provide an update on international travel and data sharing with Ireland for the next call. He noted he would ask officials to consider a joint statement and share

a draft with DAs. On the pay issue, he promised to feed the DAs comments back to Cabinet colleagues.

- CO officials advised that they were developing a robust way for citizens to assert covid status with test or vaccine history. This will draw on data stores and be straight forward to provide a certification. This would be done through the existing Covid app.

- The NI First Minister noted that the NI Covid app doesn't carry personal data, but would welcome further discussion on this amongst officials.

- The Welsh First Minister advised that he would welcome the group to explore autumn preparations and a renewed vaccination programme, as well as discussion about new variants.

- CDL welcomed this suggestion and felt it was never too early to start preparations.

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