

From: Min Walker <min.walker@nio.gov.uk>

To: PS SOS <ps.sos@nio.gov.uk>, Covid 19 Mailbox <covid-19@nio.gov.uk>

Cc: Min Walker <min.walker@nio.gov.uk>, **Name Redacted** <@nio.gov.uk>, Holly Clark <holly.clark@nio.gov.uk>, **NR** <@nio.gov.uk>, **Name Redacted** <@nio.gov.uk>, Senior Leadership Team <slt@nio.gov.uk>, PUS Mailbox <pusmail@nio.gov.uk>, Madeleine Alessandri <madeleine.alessandri@nio.gov.uk>, Mark Larmour <mark.larmour@nio.gov.uk>, Ciaran Hayes <ciaran.hayes@nio.gov.uk>

Subject: [READOUT] [CDL-DA COVID CALL]

Date: Thu, 3 Dec 2020 09:08:56 +0000

All,

Please see below a readout of the CDL call with DA FMs on Covid preparedness for Christmas.

Key things to flag for NI:

- The Executive will meet today to discuss and agree the guidance for Christmas restrictions, along with other restrictions in January.

- NIE are looking at mass testing and sample size. FM indicated that they were looking at conducting testing on a local government area basis, however she felt this was probably too large a sample following both Welsh and Scottish FMs advising their programmes are focused on much smaller areas.

NR

Scottish FM: Focusing on public messaging and encouraging people to restrict interactions at Christmas disperse new regs.

Welsh FM: Any ideas on how we will provide vaccinations in care homes given issues with storage of the vaccines. We're bringing in new tighter measures that will hopefully allow for easing of restrictions around Christmas. Keen to discuss public transport in the run up to Christmas and into January. Looking at a blended approach for school returns in the new year and mass testing for pupils.

NI FM: NI currently in tighter restrictions. NIE meeting tomorrow to discuss guidance on Christmas bubbles. We're concerned about household mixing at Christmas and the impact in January. Lastly, looking at a mass testing program and viability, interested to hear what other DAs plans are.

NI DFM: NIE will discuss tomorrow post lockdown restrictions and regulations for January- limited hospitality is likely.

CDL: Plan to distribute vaccines to hospitals and vaccine centres across England, plan for 50 of these sites. Want to have vaccinations in care homes for w/c 21st December. Will share the logistics approach later. On universities - we will have a staggered return with mass testing, prioritising return for those subjects that can't be taught remotely. Will ask colleagues to share info on that. Understand we should get 800,000 vaccine doses next week and then 5 million across the rest of December.

Welsh FM: We're working to a targeted mass testing regime, where we focus on geographical or work/school places where we can get the greatest return.

Scottish FM: Using literal flow testing. Have been doing mass testing in geographical areas - small areas (4,000-5,000 pop.), but up take is encouraging. Looking at delayed/staggered returns for universities along with testing.

NI FM: We're looking at using local government districts for mass testing, but that would be approx. 100,000 people. Based on other DAs programmes we might have to look at smaller sample sizes.

CDL: Want to make sure we can have an agreed picture of how we operate and share info. Want to get a forum like this to meet more frequently in the future on other issues.

Welsh FM: Would welcome that forum.

Scottish FM: Find this forum positive, however want to see more detail on what a future forum would entail, but happy to discuss that further.

NI FM: Important we get this over the line, these meetings have been very helpful. Keen we discuss this tomorrow at the JMC EN.

NI DFM: Happy to look at the detail and will feed comments back at JMC EN

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Private Office of the Minister of State

Name Redacted (*Private Secretary*)

M Personal Data

Name Redacted (*Assistant Private Secretary*)

M Personal Data

1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast BT4 3SH

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