

17-12-20

dFM

- Intro
- Welcome - DHargrey return.

① Minutes - 10 Dec

dFM Agreed?

(Yes)

② COVID Update

DOH

Vaccination prog, started last week
- 8300 people

Care home residents - 1st have
1st inoculation.

4 National health mins this a.m.

Nos of people vaccinated in care
homes - align with statistics.

Report of official stats.

Pressured in health service.

Ambulance - waiting - transferred
to other EDs.

COVID outbreaks in care homes -
nos dropping.

Contact Tracing - 95% contacts,
98% contact of contact.

CSA

R nos in paper.

Past week - consistent gradual rise

- above 500 today, was 1000
at peak.

7 day incidence - local govt

district.

Substantial rise - Armagh / Banbric
- Newry / Down

No clear info why.

Significant increase in tests -
need to keep in mind when considering
nos of cases.

Test positivity - plateau.

NI compared to England / Scotland /
Wales / ROI.

Border counties in ROI - higher
incidence.

Pressure in hospitals.

Spike in admissions - week of
relaxations - expected pattern.

No of inpatients resistant to fall
- persistently high bed occupancy

Rise in next few weeks

Critical care - has risen by small
amt in last few days - below
peak of wave 2.

No evidence of decline.

R - based on hosp inpatients
1.15

R did not fall below 1 in recent
2-week restrictions.

Reduced impact of restrictions,
faster rebound

Week 49 - [I]

2nd week of restriction -
mobility in created - led to poor
behaviours.

Disappointing response to two-week restrictions.

This week / next week - $R = 1.3 / 1.6$
Same as Oct - relaxations.

dfm % of care home residents + staff have had vaccination?

DOF % of residents.

DE [] compare with target nos?

DOH Unable to set targets - supply logistics of vaccine.
Need to hold supply for 2nd vaccine - 3 weeks.
Managed supply chain - Pfizer.

DOF Mobility - initial lockdown, mobility v low. Didn't happen in recent lockdown.
Schools - impact on mobility?
Reasons for moving around - 12-15% of congestion - caused by school run.
- Concern - health system.
Clear picture of factors which cause? Patients not triaged by GP? Factors which drive pressure?
Anecdotally - people turning up at ED - if issues had been caught earlier, wld not need ED.
GP services?

DOH

Social distancing in waiting room
100 COVID patients in Antrim
Hospital - 100 beds not available
to other patients.
Halo system, silos.
- School travel - CSA

CSA

Schools open - impact on travel
comparison - 4 weeks restriction
in Nov - 2 weeks schools
closed/open.
Expect further reduction in
mobility last week - opposite
was case.

DAERA

Vaccine - 8000 people in homes
plus carers?

DOH

8300 -

use as much vaccine as
possible - use for carers.

DAERA

Holding back 25,000?

DOH

Hold back half of stock - for
2nd vaccine.

DAERA

Indications - 200,000 people.
- exceeded?

DOH

Pfizer - deliveries for Dec.
[] vaccine may not be

available until early next year.

NHSRA People losing lives - 60% of people in nursing care - 1st wave - incidence now?

DOH Will send NHSRA report.

AFM Action day - circulated

AFM Sit Rep - circulated

FM Slide 10 - useful.

Post-Xmas restrictions.

DOH Pressures on health service - 2 week restrictions - not the impact we wanted.
Abort circuit-breaker - not effective enough.

TCWMM - Pts 57-60.
Table of restrictions previously - proposed now - same format as previous.
Cabinet office paper - situation in other countries.
Hospital occupancy - major challenges.

FM

Cabinet Office / Sit Rep.

Granular Issues.

Disappointed - where we are.

Vaccine - good news.

Robin - blurry on screen.

Vaccination going well - older, vulnerable in Jan.

Annex C - outdoor gatherings -
- can meet for socially distanced walks?

Car washes - stop?

For

Home care - take out of essential list? M+S Spencefield - huge area of home care, small area - food - unfair to allow.

Click / collect - caused lot of problems. Dog-groomers?

Xmas bubbles

23-27th - ~~total~~ conflict -

26th - ~~also~~ restrictions.

Need to be clear re Xmas bubble - timings.

Be as clear as poss, strive for clarity.

DOH walks - social distance - OK.

Car wash. homework - difficult

LPP/LAP

- further work from TEO -
definition of click/collect,
essential hardware.

officials to make rework.

Exc - goodwill, but gamed/
abused.

Councils - proactive stance -

"educated" retail re click/collect.

Car wash - message = stay at home.

FM last time - MOT washes, but
did all car wash - unfair on
other car washes.

MTS + Homeworks - need to be
fair.

CMD Outdoor exercise important.
Car wash - essential? For MOT?
DFI to advise - underbody clean
for MOT.

AM close - or open for MOT.

Get people to stay at home as much
as poss.

Click + collect - abused.

20% of cases in one week - link
to one retail park.

Homeware - unfair to disadvantage small []

TEO group - looking at.

Dog grooming - animal welfare, make exception - not unreasonable.

Xmas bubble - proposal 26th - 2 Jan - all except household bubbles.

Need to be clear.

PM 8.00pm curfew - Boxing Day - have to go home by 8.00pm.

CWO Conversation with ATodd (PSNI).
- operational point of view - manageable

Exec - want in guidance, or reqs - stopped without genuine reason to leave home.

March/Apr - PSNI presence - advisory.

PSNI - strong message.

DFI Bring car in hygienic state - not compulsory. Won't fail MOT for dirty car.

DOF Confused re Xmas.
People coming home - booked travel start on Boxing Day
Clarify status.

AFM All kids in except Xmas arrangements.
Families - small, time-limited Xmas bubble.

DOY

Short lockdowns not working.
Damage to businesses - fluctuating lockdowns.

May be last one needed.

Need to get results, Need R rate to come down.

Messaging - vaccine rollout.

Retail - curfew - work/life situation may be difficult.

Shift workers - need to consider.

Click/collect - was abused by some, now punishing everyone.

Gov guidance v clear.

Baby clothes - not essential?

Hard to get premature baby clothes. Can't always use Amazon.

Forestside - M+S - small food section, huge clothes store - unfair to other clothes shops.

Stay at home message diluted.

People being asked to judge whether they need to leave home.

Bliss - may be criticized for over-reaching - need to put it

in regs - will be law, creates problems. Undermined confidence.

Boxing Day

Start on 26th or not?

Boxing Day sales - could be disaster.

Spend time with family, but not in shops.

Schools —

Struggling to drive down R rate
— schools.

Need to think carefully — behaviour
issues; exams

Transfer tests — exam halls,
multiple schools.

Focus on long-term, pupil — parent
approach — make up school time
over summer.

Enforce^m — Taskforce.

Compliance, get right.

Restriction of move^m — will have to
go into regs.

DOH

Enforce^m — one of the biggest
challenges. COVID wardens —
reinforces — Pt 52.

Positive — Exec Enforce^m Task force
— bring all together.

Initial 2 weeks of Xmas hols —
effect.

Necessity^(school) — childcare facility for
essential workers.

Not easy just to close schools —
reduce face-to-face time

Work to be done — other approaches
~~etc~~

Definition — homework — Wales —
~~to restrict~~ closing aisles.

Bullet-point — TEO — definition
— essential.

CMO

Work to do - essential retail.
Clarity of messaging - stay at home, reduce contacts.
Retail - health service, shifts,
- give consideration to detail.
Slots for healthcare workers,
JML / JMK - ongoing work.

JML

Week comm 26 Dec - 2 Jan
Shift workers.
Emergencies - s/wkts -
baby - food etc.
All closed 8.00pm - 6.00am -
compressed hours - more
people in s/wkts at a time.

DH

Specific week
Reduce household gatherings,
reasons to travel.
Essential - emergency pharmacies
etc. Emergency retail.
Xmas / N/Year - change
messaging
6 weeks - intense focus on 1st
week.

JML

Need to take into consideration -
nowhere to get food / fuel at night.
Shift patterns - will be difficult.
Same amt. of people, shorter
length of time in shops.

DOH Engage with retail - social distancing, clean trolleys etc - play their part.

DFC Pt 50 - clarification.
Sports - incl elite sports behind closed doors?

DOH Yes - get people to stay at home
Big ask - lot of sporting events on Boxing Day - house parties afterwards.

DFI Racing - no spectators?
OR no racing?

DOH No sporting events to take place - no reason to leave house.
Big ask, but reason behind it.

dfm That whole week? Rest of 6 weeks

DOH Boxing Day...

CMO During that week.
~~But~~ Jan will be worst pandemic experience so far - same as last March / Apr. Need compliance same as last year.

~~at 5pm~~

dfm Conversation with T Holohan - aren't

in South - eg Draghoda racing.

CMD Didn't want to pre-empt exec discussion - will talk tomorrow.

DDY Races - shambles.

dfm No sporting events for week, elite sports after that?

DFC Need to be consistent across board - not just sport, all sectors.

DFS Closing down shops, telling not to open for 6 weeks - they wd normally have sales to move stock. Putting business at incredible peril, no amt of support will be enough.
x Perilous situation - hospitality, retail.

Can't cover costs, losses.

Alternative narrative needed.

Understand pressures in health service - not all caused by shops.

Happens every winter, emphasized by COVID.

DOF to confirm - continuation of funding for support schemes - least disruption for businesses.

Click/collect - not problem, abuse is problem - lack of enforcement. Do properly.

Mobile phone shops allowed to open
if phone breaks, no app - what
happens? New business, repairs

V. uncomfortable - tell people - no
reason to come out of house.
Exercise, health benefits, mental
health

DOH Exercise OK

DFE Schools - fundamental. Pressure
on children - exams, we not like
to see schools impeded.
Universities - only practical class
in Jan, others online - will help?
Not underestimating challenge for
health - awful situation.
Shops - returns?

DOH Mobile phone shops - TEO working
group - essential / non-essential.

DFE Returns policy - many bought
in early Dec. Shops don't want
stock back in Feb.
Clear returns policy - need to
address - Consumer Council.

CMO Joined meeting - SMK - retail
sector. Not about blame -
virus spreads easily.

Worst time for health service.

JMK WDrake pred - issues in Wales.

Wider community - people expect further restrictions.

Sectors - wd prefer prolonged lockdown to get virus down.

Biggest economic shock for 300 years.

Qs useful.

emo/CSA - bring more specificity.

Endorse paper.

Level of clarity needed.

Education - addressed 46/47.

No recomm made.

Prioritization - schools open.

CSA - factored into modelling.

Ongoing engage^m DfT/DE.

Prospect - blended learning / online

- Ian Ensure all stakeholders -
max consultation - schools, unions,
manage^m - all on same page.

Tough lift for us all - move into
engage^m mode - engage with all
sectors, not just hospitality, businesses
- sports codes. Get on board to
assist.

DOH JMK right. Lot of work done DfT/DE.

Engage with Assembly

Regs - how to communicate.

Ad Hoc COVID Committee.

Make state^m - Mon / Tues.

Sends message to public - recall of Assembly.

DFM Need to wake state^m to Assembly.
Need to be clear, hard, strong in message.

DOH [1/2] I see top of

DOJ Announce^m to Assembly.
Not a healthy environ^m - shd do remotely.

* Social distancing breaks down - parties to take forward - come back remotely in Jan.

DFM Parties discussing.

DE [1/2] outdoor exercise.
Outdoor leisure - fishing, boating, horse-riding, golf - clarification.

DOH Single - not opposed.
People travelling in cars together.

CMO Exercise - to be encouraged, incl in households.

Mixing associated with sport - not good.

Households - OK.

CSA.

No additional risk - exercising together as households - eg golf, cycling.

But - at dilute message 'stay at home'.

Parks - stay open.

Allow sporting activity in household groups.

DE

Accept - no alternative to restrictions.

Behavioural change

Fear

Early days of virus - fear, nobody knew what would happen.

People now feel - direct threat to them is extremely low - diminishing returns to interventions.

Substitution effect - get to Xmas, afterwards - sales.

Shops - may go for pre-Xmas sales.

CMO / CSA conversations - DE.

Warning - prioritising education, children - need to walk the walk.

Jurisdictions - protection for schools.

Disruption to education - damage to children, no matter what precautions in place; greatest impact on those most vulnerable.

Large nos of children at home - impact on key workers, capacity of

care workers to go to work - reduce capacity in health service.

Wary of damage to young people.

DAERA MOT - turn away if car not washed underneath.

Welcome EUO comment - dog-groomers.

Problem

Quene of ambulances - Antrim Hospital in Dec 2011, not a new problem - but recognize issues.

Scepticism - lockdowns.

This one - longer, harder

off-licenses - sales of alcohol - rise by 70%.

CSA - household transmissions = 0.1 of 0.9

People will watch football on TV - drink.

Bear pain across the board.

Not prohibition - get full benefit of approach.

DOS - policing difficulties.

Blunt instrument, dealing with half of problem

Oppose proposals -

DH Stop sale of alcohol after 8.00pm

Happy to consider other approaches

DPI Businesses stock piling - keep close

eye on - extra cost for businesses.

DFC Clarity - golfing. Exercise in same household.

Golf clubs to close? for week of no elite sport.

Outdoor exercise OK - venues closed, incl golf clubs - all 6 weeks.

CMO Risk

Fray at edges trying to get right balance

Need to be careful - how to describe.

Risk - individuals coming together - low (in household)

But associated travel is an issue.

Elite sport - not without risk -

substitution - watch on TV with friends (although mixing of households prohibited).

CSA

✓ varied. Have to factor in

behavioural effects. Individuals in

same household - good to exercise.

But open to abuse - people pretend to be same household.

Problems with not allowing such sports.

PM

Risk low - households exercising together.

dPM If open for people to use - they will leave home.

CMO Exercise good - but can be abused
Dilute stay at home message.
Finely balanced.

Easier / cleaner approach - close all

dPM If start to unravel one, get more pressure to do other exercises

PM Horses need exercise.

JML Enforce^m / compliance
PSNI - Penalty / enforce^m notices
- 18th birthday party, Aurb + 6 party
People not complying.
Only tackling half of problem - not just regulations, but compliance with regs.

DOH Compliance - needs strong message
Can I find publicly.

BOY On website.

JML Exec steer - strong messaging.

DOH Underlined - consequences of actions.
NISRA survey - people thought police

shd be strict on enforce^m.

Risk you will be caught - needs to be publicized.

DDP Stats impressive.

Enforce^m - depends on people alerting police - people don't want to be touts.
Police arrested houseparty / Hieb+b.

Easier to enforce - clarity.

More nuanced - harder to police.

Enforce^m - easier to do with simpler message.

Police - call with sound systems - broadcast key messages.

House parties - parents reckless - 18th birthday parties - just don't see risk.

DDP

Rough calculation - only got paper midday on Thurs - more info on TISC.
(LRF)

Sports people will want support - can't quantify.

Held back £26m - non-essential retail didn't ask for some support.

[] Funds

About £70m

Sporting orgs - will need lot of funds.

Can't guarantee to roll on funding

- [] DFE, also Rates Relief.

Don't have money to roll on schemes for 6 weeks.

DFE £15.5 m spent to date.

ed of Mores - [] not uptake expected. Some returns available

x Will send info tomorrow.

DFH Also [] scheme - will provide info tomorrow

DOF Need to know cost of rolling forward DFE scheme.

DFM x Mins to advise DOF tonight/tomorrow on funds available

FM Terrible position - asking business to close - 4 weeks, review for 2 further weeks - but don't know how we can pay - need to reflect on that.

DOF PRR options - Rates Relief

DOH Don't have full amt - cd get in next hour
England - Tiers - Barnett. Can we access?

DOF Working off guarantee.
Held back some funding - £200m
We may get consequential
- sacrifice scheme -
Don't bank on anything coming from

London.

DAERA DCF comment - gamechanger.
Businesses already have serious problems - if no finance available to support business - ...

DDF Not saying we have no money.
If we agree to provide support, have to sacrifice other schemes.

dPM During rest of meeting, depts to indicate returns - Jan monitoring!

Mind - get message to depts -
inform funding by end of meeting -
Jan monitoring.

DPE Jan monitoring - lot of other issues
as well, relieve pressures in dept.

dPM Mind to provide budget info.

PM. Incentive - 4 weeks, review -
poss extra 2 - rather than say
'restrictions for 6 weeks, review
after 4'.

DDH 6-week proposal - review after 4.
6 - good behaviour, reduce to 4.
4 - bad behaviour, increase to 6?

DOF CSA - 2 weeks - people relax in 2nd weeks.

If people relax towards end, better to aim for 6 weeks

CSA Evidence - people relax towards end of restrictions.

FM In past, said '2 weeks'.

If we give incentive - do well, won't need extra 2 weeks.

CSA Get advice from behavioural Scientists PHA.

dFM Car-washes - not compulsory MOT - close all
DFI - to make statem.

DAERA Clarify - ears need to be clean.

DFI DVA staff/senior officials - Will double-check & share info

DOH PSQ/MOT.

dFM Click/collect - too messy

Dog-grooming - CMO - animal welfare issue.

OK? - (yes)

Schools - will come back to
Finance - .. - - -
4 weeks / 6 weeks - - - -
- need by end of meeting.

Paed [] - in effect, but Xmas
bubbles to still stand.
Hotels to be open to 28th - to allow
people to stay
H9(a) - Xmas arrange^{ment} OK, for
clarity.

Fuel Fuel suppliers - issue to
clarify?

CMS/CSW Add to essential list.

AFM AM OK?

KP Outdoor exercise?
Click / collect - not available, but
what about essential items?

AM Allow fishing / golf - households
only

AFM []

KP Outdoor exercise - individuals /
households only.
Policy suggestion only

DPC Need more clarity - exercise.

CMO Stretching -

PM KP says 'outdoor exercise' - no mention of golf, fishing.

CMO - Too broad - don't make too exclusive.

DSP Want people to take seriously - but every exception dilutes. Creates confusion - some sports ok, some not. Better not to include any - muddy waters.

JMK Need to tie down - be clear, specific. Applies to shooting, fishing, horse riding. Err on side of caution - don't cause fray at the edges. Travel / reqs - specific guidance for police. Problem for police - interpreting guidance.

DPC Clear message needed, clear lines needed.

dPM Shd not open up [],

DOH

Outdoor gatherings - reqs -
physical ed - schools, or members
of same household. Working already
there.

Don't need to add anything - give
guidance re what it means.

Already in place - phys ed in
schools.

PM

Not for week after Xmas, but
other 3 weeks.

If stopping, fishing in lake with son,
could mckio land.

DOY

If say people can do something, will
be taken advantage of.

Not trying to stop people fishing.

PM

We will be asked 'Can I do X' -
just trying to get clarity.

DOH

Feedback from Perm Sec - return
£70m in Jan.

Major invest^m for health service.

Deliverable

Can commit.

Need to get over line in Jan -

wd appreciate £70 later in year.

DOF

£70m - gamechanger.

Shd be enough to cover. Need to

be prepared to meet max amt.

2020 - Satisfied we cd meet additional
to weeks.

DOH See it as investⁿ in Health service.
May come back for money later in
year.

dFM Can roll on support schemes?

DOF Yes.

dFM Feedback from behavioural scientists

CSA N/A yet.

dFM PSNI want []
Power to enforce non-essential
travel?

DPI Stay within county?

DOF East Belfast - Antrim / Down

FM Fermanagh / Tyrone

DPI Something that wd work for us?

DOH PSNI - 8.00pm / 6.00am - Dec/21
- specific time frame - wd like
something in reqs.

FM Need to consult on Human Rights

- huge kickback.

DPE Strong views.

Regulations - no ~~walking~~ after 8.0pm

- action compliant with human rights law

- can't make journeys - drive 3 miles to walk dogs - illegal? Impact on my rights?

LPP/LAP

DPE Asking people to make huge sacrifices.

LPP/LAP

dfm Put in guidance.
Speak to police.

Car washes - all closed, or
contract services to stay open
(eg Royal Mail fleet).

DFI Car wash not required for MOT
- confirmed by officials.

dfm All car washes closed.

KP Need to be clear if [] can
open.

dfm Policy decision - keep straight premises
All places closed (golf clubs etc).

DOH Outdoor v indoor
eg - can play golf without going
going into club house.

KP Need clarity on 'venue'
- able to open for outdoor exercise.

dfm Not open.

DOH 8.00pm - 6.00am - all closed?

dfm Businesses closed, PSNI -
will be guidance.

State^m in Assembly - WSN - DdH
(FM + dFM to support)
WMS to Assembly this evening?

DdH Ad Hoc Committee
last time - FM speech, I
supported.

AWD Messaging - time before restrictions
come into place
Message before Xmas - reduce
contacts, need people to behave
differently now, no rush.

dFM Communication - lines to take -
x circulate to all WMS - EIS.

DdH state^m on Mon, we will
support.

Media arrange^m - offline.

dFM Agree paper - Reconn - timing
to be clarified.

Nightingale Courts

DdH Plans
Court capacity - COVID - physical
measures -
Additional capacity

HOD - NALW Waterfront Hall - can provide facilities.

Engage^m - City Council, W/Front Hall

Tripartite agree^m - draft.

Up to end March, cd extend to June.

Use for courts only, not other issues.

Jury panel - 4/5 Jan.

Also looking at Courts estate - additional court accom.

dPM Agree recom?

DPE Content - but Tribunal service also has issues - have written to see if they can be included?

DOP Will allow for tribunals.

dPM Agree recom? (Yes)

Wet Pubs

DPE Pubs closed March - Sept, + since.

Other pubs opened 4 July.

Local restriction support scheme

- same pay^m 4 July - 23 Sept

- con they were closed while others were open

afm - Agree Recomm? (Yes)

Period Poverty

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Stalking

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Note of Urgent Decision.

Am

Noted?

Yes

AOB

DOF LPS - lengthy process - deciding who is in/out of schemes.
Task force to engage with LPS - help to avoid disputes - people engaging with devising

PM Click / collect - not being stopped for TSC etc?

DOH No.

CSA Behavioural Science Gap - AHA.
No direct evidence one way or another.

Contacted SAGE behavioural - no response.

View 6 weeks, review after 4 better than 14 weeks, extend for 2.

Psychology - better to give ~~new~~ good news rather than punish

PM 6 back to 4, rather than 4, ~~up~~ pass up to 6. OK?

(Yes)

DOH Communications

PM Speak to Sel after this call.

