

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
Diane Dodds MLA



From: Diane Dodds MLA
Minister for the Economy

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To: Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

ADDITIONAL NON-PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR THE NORTH WEST REGION EXECUTIVE PAPER:

Thank you for your draft Executive paper of 1 October 2020 regarding the above.

I have noted your paper and would ask that clarification of the restriction of indoor gatherings does not apply to businesses in the retail sector. I do not believe it is the policy intention to close or restrict this important part of the economy but would like to see this confirmed.

For those businesses just re-opened, such as the wet pubs, these measures, if implemented will be a further blow to their financial viability at the exact time of UK-wide lifelines being scaled back.

In considering any changes to restrictions, we must consider the following:

- What scientific evidence the proposal to close indoor hospitality is based on, given that recent messaging from CMO and CSA attributes the spread of the virus in primarily in the domestic setting?
- How long these restrictions are for, and when and how this would be reviewed?
- What criteria has been established for when an area would move into these types of restrictions, and likewise what the criteria would be to remove same restrictions?
- What additional circumstances are taken into consideration, specifically what the economic impact would be and how the Exec would compensate those businesses?

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