

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

HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS, RESTRICTIONS) (No. 2)
REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2020: FOURTH REVIEW OF THE NEED
FOR THE RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Thank you for your draft Executive paper of 11 November 2020 regarding the above.

I have noted the contents of the paper. I am surprised to learn that The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 10) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 do not expire today at 23.59 as has previously been communicated to the citizens of Northern Ireland via the Executive. This is a cause of serious concern that we are only today learning of this matter.

I note that many key behavioural risk factors are worsening and adversely impacting some people, including in particular alcohol consumption, overweight and obesity, increased sedentary behaviour alongside emerging evidence suggesting that the disease burden from conditions such as mental health is rising, as well as there being a measurable increase in cases of domestic violence. Sadly this reflects the evidence I have been sharing with Executive colleagues. It reinforces the necessity for a fresh approach to allow a collective use of resources to tackle the pandemic wherein citizens do not face continuing uncertainty caused by recurring lockdowns.

LPP/LAP

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