

DRAFT MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 1 MARCH 2021

MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Justice

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Middleton)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)

Interim Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service
Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division
Interim Attorney General of Northern Ireland
Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer
Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired agenda item 1.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (21) 053 (C) Moving Forward: The Executive's Pathway out of Restrictions

1. The Secretary to the Executive introduced, and Ministers discussed, 'Moving Forward: The Executive's Pathway out of Restrictions' and the Executive Summary of the document.

2. The Executive agreed that engagement at Ministerial and official level should continue to consider outstanding matters, and that a further meeting of the Executive would be held the following day to confirm agreement to the final document for publication in advance of a statement by the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Assembly.

The deputy First Minister chaired the remaining item on the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 2

Border Control Issues

3. The deputy First Minister advised that, in response to a request from three Ministers to hold an Executive meeting to discuss the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' letter of 26 February concerning issues relating to work at the ports, this matter had been included on the agenda for the meeting.
4. The Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs outlined his position, which reflected the uncertainty over what the point of entry control posts would need to do.
5. The Minister of Finance, the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Justice advised of their concerns regarding the decision taken by the Minister, and of their view that the matter required Executive consideration as a cross-cutting and significant and/or controversial matter.

6.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

7. It was agreed that Minister Lyons and the Attorney General would engage further on the matter, and that it would be considered again on the basis of

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and if necessary, a paper from Minister Lyons, at an Executive meeting to be scheduled for 2 March.

Date of next meeting

8. The deputy First Minister advised that a further meeting on both agenda items would take place on 2 March.