

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

**Civil Contingency Group (COVID-19 Response) Meeting
Tuesday 21 April 2020
Block B, Level 5 Conference Room, Castle Buildings**

Note of Meeting

Attendees

David Sterling (Chair)
Arlene Foster - FM
Michelle O'Neill - dFM
Declan Kearney - JM
Gordon Lyons – JM
Derek Baker – DE
Michael Bloomfield – NIAS
Mike Brennan – DfE
Katrina Godfrey – DfI
Sue Gray – DoF
ACC Alan Todd – PSNI
Lesley Hogg – NI Assembly
Maria Jennings – FSA
Mark Larmour – NIO
Peter May – DoJ
David Jackson – LG
Joan McCaffrey – LG
Chris McNabb – EIS
David Small – DAERA
Colum Boyle – DfC
Jill Minne – NICS HR
Michael Graham – NIFRS
Richard Pengelly – DoH
Karen Pearson – TEO
Chris Stewart – TEO
Hugh Widdis – DSO
NR – TEO
Andrew McCormick – TEO
Anthony Harbinson – TEO
Donal Moran – NI-Hub
Andy Cole - TEO
Secretariat – NI Hub

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. COVID-19 - CURRENT SITUATION AND PROGNOSIS

Richard Pengelly (DoH) updated the meeting:

- To date there had been 2,728 confirmed cases in NI and 207 deaths.
- AFB1 testing facility was now operating. Richard thanked DEARA colleagues for their work in getting this up and running. The new capacity will support the roll-out of testing within care homes.

- He advised CCG that the death of a local doctor had received coverage on social media but indicated there was uncertainty over some of the facts regarding the cause of death. This may be picked up by local media. CCG expressed their sympathy for the deceased doctor.

3. ACTIONS REVIEW

David Sterling confirmed closure of action points CCG1604/01 and CCG1604/02. The following action point updates were provided:

- **CCG0904/04 – Support to Haulage and Ferry Companies** – There has been progress on a UKG/Executive package to provide support for ports, ferry companies, haulage companies and local airports and an announcement is expected later this week.
- **CCG1404/01 - PPE for Funeral Directors** – Peter May confirmed that PPE had been supplied to Funeral Directors that will keep them adequately supplied in the short term.
- **CCG1704/01 – Household Recycling Centres** – This issue was considered at the Executive meeting on 17 April. The outcome was that DAERA would urgently prepare a further paper for consideration by the Executive. The paper should be presented to the Executive on Wednesday.

4. SIT-REP UPDATE

Anthony Harbinson took the meeting through the main issues arising from yesterday's Sit-Rep including:

- The Chief Medical Officer announcement that anyone leaving hospital to go back into a 'care setting' will be tested 48 hours before discharge.
- Belfast International Airport is now seeking support alongside Belfast City and City of Derry Airports.
- Financial support package for 3 ferry operators across 5 Irish Sea routes agreed between UKG and Executive. Announcement on Ferries/Ports, Airports & Haulage industry expected this week.
- DAERA – Announcement on £4.5m redirected into rural communities, helping around 50,000 vulnerable and isolated people to stay home and safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- DfE – List of essential workers in NI has been published.
- DfE – the £25k grant scheme to support businesses in retail, hospitality, tourism and leisure sectors launched on Monday 20 April.

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- Anthony advised that the Sit-Rep Team were currently re-working a number of the graphs included in the Daily Sit-Rep.

5. LEGISLATION UPDATE

- Chris Stewart advised that there was nothing further to add to the earlier discussion under the actions.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

- ACC Alan Todd (PSNI) advised that PSNI were getting a significant number of calls from local councils requesting guidance on what they can or can't open based on current guidance and legislation. ACC Todd felt that further central guidance would be useful. HOCS confirmed that work was ongoing with regards new guidelines.

Action: CCG2101/01 – Local Council Enforcement Powers - David Jackson (LG) to contact Alan Todd (PSNI) and Chris Stewart (TEO) to address Local Council concerns regarding their legal enforcement powers.

- Michael Bloomfield (NIAS) advised that both staffing levels and workload within NIAS were stable.
- Michael Graham (NIFRS) advised that there had been an increase in the number of domestic and wild fires, however these have been balanced out as there has been a reduction in other types of calls.
- David Jackson (LG) – Financial sustainability was the main area of concern for local councils with work ongoing with DfC. The Chief Executives of the local councils are working together to develop a recovery plan. Work was also continuing around enforcement issues with the PSNI.
- Maria Jennings (FSA) – Discussions around recovery had commenced within FSA.
- Mike Brennan (DfE) – Advised that the 1860 applications for the £25k Grant Scheme was considerably more than expected.

7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

- Chris McNabb (EIS) advised that there was nothing further to add to the earlier discussion under the actions.

8. AOB AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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Date of next meeting: 08:30, 22 April 2020, 5th Floor Conference Room, Block B, Castle Buildings.