

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**MEETING NOTE (31 March 2020)**

INV Number:

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		Ministerial meeting NI/Rol – COVID-19	
VENUE:	e.g. PB	Zoom	OTHER:
LIST OF ATTENDEES:		FM, DFM, Health Minister NI, Health Minister Rol, SOSNI, Tánaiste, JM Lyons.	
Minister	Spad	PS	
OFFICIALS:	Mark Goodfellow – PPS FM Carol Morrow – PS FM HOCS Anthony Harbinson Deirdre Griffith		
OTHERS:	Philip Weir		
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:			
Ministers discussed the MOU between NI and Rol – expected to be finalised and signed in a few days.			
Rol deaths in care homes now more than other community settings. High compliance levels with social distancing. Not on projected worst case scenario trajectory but ICU capacity remains a concern.			
Minister Swann noted that it would be a further week before compliance levels in NI could be assessed. On care homes, Chief Social Worker currently working with the Industry. Early modelling suggests a third of cases are in those under 40 years of age; one third between 40-70 and a third in the 70+ age group. Cases evenly split between males and females. Early concern about more people travelling from home in order to exercise.			

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Tánaiste noted increasingly similar approaches NI and RoI, except approach to community testing. Different approaches dictates that restrictions will be lifted at different times N/S. That points to tricky political handling if one approach appears to be yielding more positive results than the other, so the case for stronger co-ordination across the island remains.

Minister Swann noted that RoI was scaling back on testing and NI is scaling up; that aside, agreed that broad approaches are more in synch now.

FM noted the challenges with supply chains coming to NI from GB – this ought to be escalated via COBR.

Ministers agreed this was a useful format that should continue to meet to better co-ordinate and share information.

ISSUES AGREED:

N/A

ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

N/A

NOTE WRITTEN BY:

Mark Goodfellow

DATE:

31 March 2020