

TEO FIRST MINISTER'S OFFICE MEETING NOTE

Date 9 April 2020

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		NIO/ROI		
DATE:	9 April 2020 1:15	NOTE WRITTEN BY:		Deirdre Griffith
VENUE:		By telephone call – not possible to confirm all attendees	Officials present	FM Adviser present: Philip Weir (joined during meeting)
LIST OF ATTENDEES: Included FM, dFM, Minister Swann, CMC				NR
<p>PS MOH, Carol Morrow NR</p> <p>Mark Ovens, Special Adviser to Minister Swann Anthony Harbinson - to take note (joined during meeting)</p> <p>UK Government: Secretary of State Oliver Legard, Special Adviser Isabel Bruce, Special Adviser Madeleine Alessandri Mark Larmour Ciarán Hayes NR</p> <p>Irish Government: Simon Coveney, Tánaiste Minister Harris (joined during meeting) Fergal Mythen, Director General IUKA Division Ruth Parkin, North/South Director Chris Donoghue, Special Advisor to the Tánaiste Barbara Cullinane, Special Advisor to the Tánaiste CMO Ireland</p>				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		Modelling in NI showing positive impact of social distancing Concern about Easter Weekend – caravan parks and pubs		

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	<p>Message from all is don't travel for Easter Some tension expected at beauty spots Detailed modelling under way in ROI Welcomed Health MOU CMOs in regular contact Different approaches on easing restrictions – need to communicate in advance Level of disease varies across regions Need to keep sight of longer term health consequences Joint message on frontier workers needed Good co-operation between ROI and FCO on repatriation flights R number improving in ROI SAGE info shared and in public domain Ferry routes important including for oxygen supply</p>
ACTION POINTS:	UK and ROI governments to consider funding for ferry routes Agreed statement to issue

DRAFT Statement on Quad Call on Covid 19

9 April 2020

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis and the Tánaiste, Simon Coveney today jointly chaired a second conference call with the First Minister Arlene Foster, deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Health Minister Robin Swann and Minister for Health Simon Harris to discuss the ongoing response to COVID-19 on the island of Ireland.

All participants welcomed the signing this week of the Memorandum of Understanding to formalise the close ongoing North/South co-operation on the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

They reviewed the latest developments on a North/South and East-West basis and discussed a range of issues of common interest to combat COVID-19 [, including PPE provision, social distancing and testing]. They asked that Health Ministers, in conjunction with CMOs, continue to maintain contact and to work together for the mutual benefit of everyone on the island of Ireland.

They once again jointly expressed their deep gratitude for the continuing courageous and dedicated efforts of health and social care workers, officials and all those working incredibly hard to respond to the challenges of the pandemic.

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The participants agreed that continued close contact and cooperation on behalf of all the people of the island was essential and would be maintained, including through regular meetings in this format.

They also agreed to issue the following joint public appeal ahead of the Easter weekend

“Easter is a special time and one where, in normal circumstances, people across the Island would be travelling. In ordinary times, for many people this would involve travelling across the border – for events or religious services, and to see family and friends.

As we all know, these are not normal circumstances, and we are all part of an enormous collective effort against the spread of COVID 19. The public have played their part in following the public health advice, and for this we thank them sincerely. Our health workers, and all our essential workers, are on the front line of the effort. We owe it to them and, above all, to the most vulnerable in our communities, to continue to do our part.

We therefore urge everyone to continue to act in accordance with the public health guidance North and South, and to avoid non-essential travel this Easter.

Help save lives. Stay at home this Easter.”

END