

Message

From: Pearson, Karen [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=018ED108562F4AE698822FCCE2139299-KAREN PEARSON TEMP]
Sent: 21/09/2020 07:39:17
To: Pengelly, Richard [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk]; McCormick, Andrew (TEO) [andrew.mccormick@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; McBride, Michael [michael.mcbride@health-ni.gov.uk]; Young, Ian (Prof.) [ian.young2@health-ni.gov.uk]; McMahon, Nigel [nigel.mcmahon@health-ni.gov.uk]; Redmond, Liz [liz.redmond@health-ni.gov.uk]; O'Loan, Eugene [eugene.o'loan@finance-ni.gov.uk]; Holmes, Jane [jane.holmes@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; Toogood, Peter [peter.toogood@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; **NR** [Name Redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk; NIHUB ECCMC Secretariat [eccmc.secretariat@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; McNabb, Chris [chris.mcnabb@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]; **NR** [Name Redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk; Gordon, David [david.gordon@health-ni.gov.uk]; Cole, Andy [andy.cole@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: RE: shape of the week

Can we share info on decision points today please.

I understand the self isolation package will be announced in Parliament this afternoon.

PM is calling fm and dFM at 13.00 today.

Scotland pressing for a cobr today but I think tomorrow is more likely.

pM likely to announce measures for England tomorrow.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Pearson, Karen <Karen.Pearson@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Sunday, 20 Sep 2020, 12:49 pm
To: Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>, McCormick, Andrew (TEO) <Andrew.McCormick@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, McBride, Michael <Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk>, Young, Ian (Prof.) <Ian.Young2@health-ni.gov.uk>, McMahon, Nigel <Nigel.McMahon@health-ni.gov.uk>, Redmond, Liz <Liz.Redmond@health-ni.gov.uk>, O'Loan, Eugene <Eugene.O'Loan@finance-ni.gov.uk>, Holmes, Jane <Jane.Holmes@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, Toogood, Peter <Peter.Toogood@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, **NR** [Name Redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk, NIHUB ECCMC Secretariat <eccmc.secretariat@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, McNabb, Chris <Chris.McNabb@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, **NR** [Name Redacted]@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk, Gordon, David <David.Gordon@health-ni.gov.uk>, Cole, Andy <Andy.Cole@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk>, Campbell, Maura <Maura.Campbell@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>, Harrison, Julie <Julie.Harrison@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>, Godfrey, Katrina (DfI – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: Archbold, Claire <Claire.Archbold@finance-ni.gov.uk>, May, Peter <Peter.May@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk>, Brennan, Mike <Mike.Brennan@economy-ni.gsi.gov.uk>, Meharg, Tracy <Tracy.Meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: shape of the week

Here are my thoughts on events and priorities for next week. Copying to Depts with an interest in developments for next week. Cabinet Office has just asked for a 4 Nations call at 4.30 today which may give more information on the issues below. I will update after that.

UKG decision making process

On the CDL call yesterday, the UKG focus is on a tiered approach to local restrictions, and interventions to encourage self-isolation.

From the various calls, it is likely that Cabinet will need to sign off proposals following deliberations over the weekend, before COBR can be stood up. It is likely that COBR will be where we see the detail and UKG will want to move quickly to implement after that. We will be playing catch up on the detail as per usual.

We will need to brief FM and dFM before COBR so any information we can get from our contacts would be useful.

Tiered approach

I am not sure if UKG plan to legislate for the tiered approach or whether it will be a plan to activate as needed.

Our own post code approach is in place as one of our interventions, with the BT60 direction made quickly by Doh last week. Michael, Ian and I have put an arrangement in place with SOLACE, which enables us to brief between Executive decisions and just before the press conference. So as to not tip off Councils before the Executive has made a decision, we will let SOLACE know which Chief Exec(s) to bring just before the meeting. SOLACE are content with that. We should invite DfC to be on that call each Thursday.

We would like political authority to engage more thoroughly with Councils, especially if an Executive decision impacts on local service delivery. Hopefully, consideration of our own tiered approach/local restrictions strategy will provide for a good discussion on that.

Incentives to self-isolate

We had some advance warning of this on Thursday and DfE/DfC were on a call with me with UKG. Some detail but not a huge amount. It is good to have confirmation that a Barnett consequential is coming. Unlikely to be huge. We think this will need to be aimed at those on benefits who are working, to make any sense of it, as it is aimed at those who might otherwise go to work with symptoms and/or a positive test. More detail needed.

The Executive will first have to take a decision on how to use the money – they will not be tied to using it for exactly the same purpose, but I think it is reasonable to assume they will want to do so. It will then need to be allocated to a department, which will need to develop a scheme. In England, the money will be distributed via local authorities. We will need a decision here, and probably legislation, and a scheme set up at speed.

There will be penalties in England for employers who do not play their part to support staff who need to self-isolate. That is likely to require legislation and a new fine.

There will be a new mandatory requirement to self isolate when given a positive test result, or asked to do so via test and trace. England will have a £1000 fine in line with the travel regulations, which can build to a maximum of £10,000 for repeat offenders.

We will need to think about possible adverse consequences, such as people not going for a test, or not engaging with test and trace.

Hospitality

We continue to work towards wet pubs opening on Weds, with some ongoing criticism of mixed messages compared to post code restrictions.

I owe Eugene instructions on the additional measures the Executive asked for on Thursday (table sizes etc) and that will follow next.

The regulations are well advanced and we are on target for go live on Weds. The sector has asked for as much info as possible to enable planning for opening, and I will draw that together for Colin Neill and Janice Gault, although they should be fully up to speed to be honest.

The remaining issue is music in hospitality venues on which we will need to reach a decision. There were various views but the options are pretty limited.

Face coverings

There are additional settings where we can gain a few % points in compliance. This will include introducing for hospitality sectors, taxis, private buses and banks. DfC are exploring with Dof whether some jobs and benefits offices could be included. And there are some settings in England which we could mirror. Ideally we will go to the Executive on Thursday with proposals but subject to bandwidth this week. If we can get to that point, regs would be developed the following week.

Holylands

The engagement by the Universities at Friday's meeting with JMs was much better than the first meeting. Clear that they had listened to Minister Swann and Michael and Ian, and they have come back with some good proposals. There will be a further meeting of the group next Friday to check progress. More students will arrive this weekend.

Summary

I will do some more specific emails on the above issues this afternoon. I suppose the common points here are:

- Speed at which UKG will move, and how quickly we can analyse and respond, and put in place our own arrangements. Ideally, there will be a package of proposals to the Executive for Thursday
- Possible pressures on drafting resource, which I know Claire is thinking about

Karen