

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		SOS NI	
DATE:	15 May 2020	NOTE WRITTEN BY:	
		Deirdre Griffith	
VENUE:	virtual		FM Advisers: Philip Weir dFM Advisers:
LIST OF ATTENDEES: First Minister and deputy First Minister SOS NI Mark Goodfellow, PPS FM Deirdre Griffith, PS FM <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">NR</div> , PPS dFM Anthony Harbinson, NI C3 Hub Chief of Staff TEO Jane Holmes, TEO Ciaran Hayes, NIO Mark Larmour, NIO <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">NR</div> NIO			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		Note prepared by C3 team attached – attendees updated	
ACTION POINTS:		None for TEO	

Note for the Record

Friday 15th May at 15.30hrs via Zoom
Ministerial Stocktake meeting

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

1. The Secretary of State advised that he had had a call with business leaders this morning around the different packages. Whilst there was some concern around the speed of the business rate packages the main other issue was around dates for the 5 plan being activated.
2. The First Minister noted that feedback had been good and that the intention was to be realistic. She continued that she was pleased that the medical advice showed that they were in a position to move forward on Monday and that further steps would be taken as soon as it was possible.
3. The Secretary of State felt that the plan was very good. He had answered questions around different regions moving forward at different phases. It was his view that this was a sensible approach and that he was fully supportive.
4. The deputy First Minister agreed that overall it had been a good.
5. The Secretary of State noted that whilst providing dates may be helpful for planning purposes this approach is caveated by the fact that they may need to be amended. He identified a further benefit in that NI could move quicker if the circumstances dictated so. He continued that the NI approach was sensible and acknowledged that he was impressed with what the Executive had got done.
6. The First Minister advised that they had held a call with the Taoiseach earlier in the day and that he would be announcing Ireland's move to phase 1 this evening. They had discussed the issue of quarantine and common travel area. It was noted that it would be helpful to have a discussion on these issues before the Quad meeting
7. The Secretary of State advised that he had also spoken to Simon Coveney and indicated that the Prime Minister was likely to have a conversation with the Taoiseach today.
8. The deputy First Minister agreed that it would be helpful to discuss this in advance of the QUAD meeting as there were a number of issues around borders and exemptions, particularly around construction workers and hauliers.
9. The Secretary of State confirmed that there were a number of areas which were being examined and this included hauliers and pilots.
10. The First Minister asked about what measures are being put in place to assist self-employed people who were having issues with HMRC and their ID.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

11. The Secretary of State advised that anyone who had previously been in contact with HMRC should be able to progress through the system. He stated that no-one who was entitled to assistance would miss out. He continued that HMRC was working to resolve the issue and that a helpline had been established.
12. The First Minister advised that the issue was around the fact that there was a limited time to apply.
13. The Secretary of State stated that people can still apply and that if they encounter a problem they should contact the helpline but that it was hoped that a fix would be found soon.
14. The deputy First Minister asked if there was anything coming up that they should be aware of.
15. The Secretariat of State advised that the quarantine issue needed further consideration and that it would be interesting to see how the public reacts this weekend, particularly if the weather is good. It would also be interesting to see if this would impact on the R rating.
16. The Secretary of State mentioned that hauliers had been raised at an earlier meeting and that his team were looking at whether there was potential to ask the ferry operators if they have the ability to provide assistance on the return empty routes.