

**EXECUTIVE COVID TASKFORCE**  
**STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT BOARD**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**12 MAY 2021**

**Present:** Jenny Pyper - Chair  
Peter May  
Richard Pengelly  
Mike Brennan  
Karen Pearson  
Moirá Doherty  
Peter Luney  
Name Redacted  
Emma Bell (EY)  
Name Redacted

**Apologies:** Tracy Meharg  
Chris McNabb

**1. Minutes of meeting on 28 April**

The minutes of meeting held on 28 April were agreed by all members.

**2. Recovery Strategy - Presentation**

Karen Pearson and Emma Bell (EY) provided an overview of the development of the ECT Recovery Strategy to date which outlined a six step process underpinning this plan and also provided detail on the four emerging accelerants for recovery – labour market interventions, tackling inequalities, health of the population and green growth and sustainability. A work in progress draft was shared and discussed.

Issues raised during the discussion included: ensuring the recovery strategy is citizen focused; ensuring value added, rather than simply the collation of information on existing activity across departments; the importance of linking relevant and significant pieces of work that are planned across departments in 21/22; green growth and sustainability and need for input from DfI; the need to link the recovery strategy to longer term outcomes and the PfG; citizen well-being and long term mental health issues; budget implications; and the challenge of engaging exhausted officials and stakeholders in another overarching process.

It was also noted that DoH and DfI still have to provide their input to this process. A cross-departmental workshop will take place tomorrow to finalise

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the analysis of the interventions put forward by departments and to progress consideration of the collective impact of these.

**3. Protect**

Richard Pengelly had left the meeting before this item was reached. Jenny Pyper noted that a decision on the Astra Zeneca vaccine was awaited from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation and that concern remained around the infection rate and cross-border travel. Jenny also advised that the Prime Minister intends to initiate a UK-wide lessons learned review of the handling of the pandemic in which Northern Ireland will be included, subject to the terms of reference. Karen Pearson provided an update on managed hotel quarantine arrangements and noted that a maximum penalty fine had been issued to someone attempting to avoid the quarantine arrangements on arrival in Belfast.

**4. Adherence**

Peter May reported that work on messaging and funding is at an advanced stage and that colleagues from the Innovation Lab will provide some input to shape the final product. Messaging will be required to help people understand the risks associated with everyday interactions which will help them go about their daily business. Indications are that adherence is generally good but concerns remain around the movement on core messages in England and Wales.

**5. Communications**

In the absence of Chris McNabb no update was provided.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26 May at 3.45pm.