

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		4 Nations Call with CDL Covid		
DATE:	24 July 2020	NOTE WRITTEN BY: Deirdre Griffith		
VENUE:				FM Advisers: dFM Advisers:
<p>LIST OF ATTENDEES included: First Minister deputy First Minister Michael Gove, CDL First Minister Scotland First Minister Wales Brandon Lewis, SOS NI Alister Jack, SOS SG Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM <div style="border: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">NR</div> PS dFM Not clear if Simon Hart, SOS Wales was on call</p>				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p><u>Travel</u> CDL indicated that there would be a review of the approach to the Border. Transport Ministers would be in touch with DA counterparts about relaxing restrictions on quarantine. Update on Spanish and Serbian position. In the case of island such as the Azores an evidence base for decision is needed – will err on the side of caution.</p> <p>FM SG – recognised that sharing on communication had improved. Was concerned about the Spanish position but broadly content with the countries to be added with an implementation date of 29 July. Need regular review of countries on the list.</p> <p>FM WG – also concerned about Spain. Queried position on US travel. CDL indicated no plan to relax arrangements for US. Risk of international travel during the winter - may need more precautionary approach re the risk of importing the virus.</p>		

	<p>FM NI – Noted particular problem in relation to international travel routing via ROI to NI. There are different quarantine arrangements. MOH NI is in correspondence with ROI Minister. CDL committed to raise this issue.</p> <p>dFM NI was concerned about lack of transparency around data in relation to quarantining. Prevalence rate locally is different to Britain. Felt weekly consideration was needed. Also raised CTA – travel guidance is confused. Would like a BIC meeting to consider.</p> <p><u>Localised Outbreaks</u></p> <p>Health Ministers were sharing information and there were ongoing JBC discussions. Guidance on the use of face coverings in England was needed.</p> <p>FM Wales indicated that he had a direct interest in the CTA issue and would support a BIC meeting. He felt social Distancing of 2m cannot be sustained. There are legal obligations for managers to take reasonable measures to comply with guidance. Would like a national template for local lockdowns and appropriate triggers and JBC advice.</p> <p>FM NI – updated that a number of relaxations had been announced yesterday. Shielding is being paused from 31 July. A mandatory power had been taken in relation to the wearing of face coverings but intention is to try and work on voluntary compliance with an information campaign and review on 20 August whether need to bring in enforcement. There are currently a low number of localised outbreaks with good tracing in place.</p> <p>FM SG - reported on significant opening up in Scotland last week. Not planning much more at present. Trying to get schools open and pausing shielding. Face coverings were mandatory with close to 100% compliance. Prevalence in Scotland is very low. Next period may be volatile. Implications for test and trace when infectious but with lack of symptoms. Need a more explicit focus on driving numbers as low as possible before winter months.</p> <p>CDL noted the disproportionate impact on BAME demography in UK. Contributing to number disparity. Would like a shared statement on driving down case numbers. SG will draft wording taking account views on the words eradicate/elimination.</p> <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>Need to plan for winter – build up PPE supplies and roll out winter flu vaccines.</p> <p>FM NI supportive of statement regarding suppression of virus.</p>
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OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

	<i>[Key participants dropped off line and then went dead]</i>
ACTION POINTS:	SG to draft joint statement Participants to consider a dedicated BIC meeting