

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		FM/dFM Mtg with Taoiseach	
DATE:	16 July 2020	NOTE WRITTEN BY:	
		Deirdre Griffith	
VENUE:	Stormont Castle		FM Advisers: Emma Little Pengelly Philip Weir dFM Advisers: Stephen McGlade
<p>LIST OF ATTENDEES: First Minister and deputy First Minister</p> <p>JM Lyons</p> <p>JM Kearney</p> <p>Michael Martin, Taoiseach</p> <p>Eamonn Molloy, Assistant Secretary, RoI</p> <p>Martin Fraser, Secretary General, RoI</p> <p>Pat McParland, Deputy Chief of Staff, RoI</p> <p>Brenda Boylan, Principal Officer, RoI</p> <p>Philip Weir, Special Adviser FM</p> <p>Stephen McGlade, Special Adviser dFM</p> <p>Deirdre Griffith, PPS FM</p> <p>Donal Moran, PPS dFM</p> <p>NR PS JM Lyons</p>			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:	<p>FM and dFM welcomed Taoiseach. FM indicated desire to work together mutually, dFM recognised challenges and indicated that focus is now on recovery and building back.</p> <p>Taoiseach thanked Ministers for facilitating a meeting. He indicated that as a co-guarantor of the GFA that a strategic review was needed. Need to consider how to navigate a way forward whilst respecting traditions. Delighted with NSMC which is a framework to work through. Would like to move beyond NDNA – not just commitments.</p> <p>The First Minister recognised that things were rocky across NI and the island but that it was a good opportunity to restart and reboot. NDNA had been pushed back due to Covid. The Sligo Enniskillen greenway was a small but good example of working to get ready. Taoiseach referenced Waterford as an example of a position greenway.</p>		

dFM recognised that delivery can be progressed through NSMC and sectoral meetings.

On Covid:

dFM highlighted that the two CMOs were working together and want that to continue and for the MOU to continue. Taoiseach recognised that it was a worrying week – R number was up with a number of clusters some related to travel. Phase 4 had been delayed. Publicans unhappy but difficult if spread unchecked. Green list to be published next week.

US Special Envoy due to visit – concerns around testing and travel advice. Possibility of Health Ministers and CMOs meeting to discuss timing of travel/testing announcements however Taoiseach concerns about risk of leaks. Taoiseach indicated that there would be stronger follow up of passengers, expected electronic forms to be in place soon.

FM, dFM and Taoiseach discussed face masks, school return and public transport.

On Brexit:

Taoiseach indicated that PM wants free trade deal, need a level playing field and businesses want certainty. Fisheries is challenging. How to make it work for all? No tariffs/quotas would reduce the challenge.

FM indicated her view that focus is on trying to protect NI economy, jobs and trade. She referenced legislating for unfettered access. The White Paper and the need for GB access.

dFM indicated that there is no meeting of minds but there was agreement on the need for certainty.

Taoiseach indicated that a Shared Island Unit had been established in his department. Need to look ahead at how best we can share. Need to consider social, economic and political issues post Brexit. Want to work in a non-contentious way – looking at 3rd level education, health where there are synergies we can develop. Regional structures such as the N/W. Will engage with civic stakeholders and business.

FM said Children's heart surgery and cancer treatment at Altnagelvin were good examples. She mentioned the Castlereagh foundation and NDNA. Need to focus on areas other than the N/W. FM indicated that from a political (not TEO) perspective that there were Brexit tensions between communities and welcomed engagement.

dFM indicated that inclusivity was key.

	<p>Taoiseach indicated that consideration was needed in relation to Centenaries. dFM welcomed practical work and that strategic review is important.</p> <p>FM mentioned the state of the roof of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.</p> <p>Meeting concluded</p>
ACTION POINTS:	None