

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		FM / dFM meeting with Secretary of State for Northern Ireland										
DATE:	25 November 2020	NOTE WRITTEN BY:										
		NR										
VENUE:	Virtual											
<p>LIST OF ATTENDEES: First Minister, Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA (FM) Deputy First Minister, Michelle O'Neill MLA (dFM) Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis MP (SoSNI)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>PS, FM</td> </tr> </table> <p>Donal Moran, PPS dFM Chris Stewart, TEO</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>NIO</td> </tr> </table> <p>Paul Flynn, NIO</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>NIO</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>NIO</td> </tr> </table> <p>Mary Jo McKeever, NIO</p>					NR	PS, FM	NR	NIO	NR	NIO	NR	NIO
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KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>FM provided an update on the current Covid-19 situation with 500 positive cases today and noted that numbers in hospital are concerning, particularly older people. She indicated in relation to the DfT Test and Release announcement, more analysis was required in relation to how this impacts NI. SoSNI indicated he would provide more information from DfT if required.</p> <p>dFM noted that a 2 week intervention was planned, along with mass testing and vaccination, which will require a stock of tests.</p> <p>SoSNI outlined the main implications for NI of the Spending Review Announcement and committed to send through details. There will be an extra £900m for NI in addition to the Block Grant, for Housing, Education and Health. There will be a further £315m for farmers and £3.1m for fisheries.</p> <p>There will be a £14.6bn R&D UK fund which UU and QUB would be eligible to bid into. There is £618m for City and Growth deals. There will be at least one Freeport in NI and moving some GB Civil Service jobs to Belfast. There are opportunities</p>										

	<p>for Harland and Wolff and local aerospace companies to bid for defence infrastructure contracts.</p> <p>In response to a query from dFM regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund, SoSNI indicated that the details had not yet been decided. There will be additional funding next year. There is a separate levelling up fund for England of approx. £600m which will have Barnett consequentials. FM indicated that greater clarity is required on these funds.</p> <p>In response to a query from SoSNI regarding filling the HOCS role, FM indicated that there would be an announcement shortly.</p> <p>dFM noted that the Joint Board meeting was now postponed and that the Language Bill needed to progress within this mandate. SoSNI accepted the pressure on timelines and indicated a meeting would take place before mid-December.</p> <p>SoSNI noted that the Shared History Fund of £1m was being distributed via the National Lottery and encouraged bids.</p>
ACTION POINTS:	NIO to provide details of the Spending Review Announcement