

FROM: NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

DATE: 31 MARCH 2020

TO: ARLENE FOSTER MLA
First Minister

MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA
deputy First Minister

REF: DfI/SUB/1233/2020

Executive Covid Crisis Management Committee (ECCMC MEETINGS)

We are in the middle of an unprecedented public health and economic crisis with the number of deaths of our citizens continuing to escalate. To receive notification this morning from your office, with no prior consultation with Ministerial colleagues, that “there will be no ECCMC meetings until further notice” and to have no schedule of Executive meetings is unacceptable.

This is a time when the Executive should be working collectively on an agreed common approach to protect our citizens, tackle and overcome this crisis. Given the scale of this crisis, we should be meeting on a daily basis, for strategic briefings, discussion and to agree critical issues in our ongoing response.

It is also deeply concerning that ECCMC meetings have been suspended at this critical time without any confirmed replacement arrangements, any indication of prior

discussion with Executive colleagues or even a timescale for alternative arrangements to be provided.

I am asking you both to urgently set out the rationale for this decision and an explanation as to how our response as an inclusive Executive is strengthened by it and how our citizens are better served by it.

Can confirmation also be provided that the daily public communication conferences that take place at 4pm will continue. It is important that these take place every day to update citizens on our response to the crisis and to support our health colleagues with key points of information.

Please note I am copying this letter to Executive Colleagues.

PD

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure