

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

TEO MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		FM / dFM meeting with Secretary of State for Northern Ireland							
DATE:	11 February 2021	NOTE WRITTEN BY:							
		NR							
VENUE:	Virtual		FM Advisers: Philip Weir						
<p>LIST OF ATTENDEES: First Minister, Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA (FM) Junior Minister, Declan Kearney MLA (JMK) Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis MP (SoSNI) Philip Weir. Special Adviser FM</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>, PS FM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>, PS dFM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NR</td> <td>, PS JM Kearney</td> </tr> </table> <p>Mark Larmour, NIO Paul Flynn, NIO</p>				NR	, PS FM	NR	, PS dFM	NR	, PS JM Kearney
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KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:		<p>FM provided an update on the current Covid situation, stating that numbers were still stubbornly high. The Minister of Health is to bring forward proposals for a review on the 18th February. HOCS is leading the COVID task force which comprises 3 strands.</p> <p>In response to a query from SoSNI, she indicated that she wasn't aware on any progress with data sharing with Rol.</p> <p>HM Gouvernement continues to work with Rol on hotel quarantine on a 5 nations basis. There are no international flights to NI. The Minister of Health is concerned about travellers entering NI via Dublin.</p> <p>ML indicated that Officials held a tri-lateral call this morning, and a solution has been proposed by Rol. Simon Coveney is keen to progress this issue.</p>							

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	<p>SoSNI indicated that he would send correspondence in relation to freeports and establish a meeting with FM, Dfm, Mof, Mfl, and MfE. He indicated that the location had been agreed.</p> <p>FM queried whether SoSNI had any further information regarding anticipated return to schools in England. SoSNI indicated that he did not have details but committed to engage with the Education Minister and provide feedback.</p> <p>JMK indicated that it was critical to expedite arrangements for a joint Ministerial meeting regarding Victims' Payment. A meeting next week is required.</p> <p>SoSNI agreed to arrange a meeting, however Officials need to meet to discuss the details. He indicated that he had spoken to the Minister of Justice last week and signed correspondence to the Finance Minister.</p>
ACTION POINTS:	<p>SoSNI to provide details of proposals for school return in England.</p> <p>SoSNI to arrange joint Ministerial meeting regarding Victims' Payment.</p>