

All,

Quick summary of the above meeting (I have detailed notes so can produce minutes in slower time but I assume **NR** will produce the official note):

Chair:

- Disappointed at poor engagement from FM and dFM despite early commitments to doing business in more transparent, constructive way;
- Appreciate 'the likes of' COVID has introduced pressures but other Ministers engage more actively with their Committees than FM and dFM do with TEO Committee;
- COVID Regs happened in reverse – introduced before coming to Assembly/Committee – should at least have written to Committee in advance;
- BREXIT sub-Cttee – wasn't aware that it had been dissolved until we sought update;
- Papers from officials not tabled on time; and
- Concerns about delays in HIA AND Languages Bill.

FM and dFM response:

- COVID unprecedented and we will of course facilitate what you want but don't underestimate the pressure on our time as result of COVID;
- We meet as Exec 3 times per week, daily CCG meetings, have been to ad-hoc Cttee and will do so again this week or next;
- No need for Brexit sub-Cttee when Exec meets regularly and all Ministers there;
- No deliberate attempt to disengage;
- Offer weekly update calls if helpful;
- Will update you once recovery plan clear;
- JMs coming to TEO Cttee on BREXIT; and
- We go to ad hoc Cttee on COVID recovery this Thu or next Tue; JMs come to TEO Cttee the following week (BREXIT) and we can come to TEO Cttee week after that.

Summary of actions:

1. Share with Committee Chair timeline for Languages Bill;
2. Agree timeframe later in May for FM and dFM to go to TEO Cttee;
3. Aim to speak with Chair once COVID recovery plan finalised; and
4. Check that HOCS is responding to letters of concern on HIA on behalf of FM and dFM (I'm not sure what these are but **NR** referred to numerous letters having been issued to FM and dFM many weeks ago that haven't had replies. FM and dFM said that HOCS was dealing with those and understood he had replied).

Mark

Mark Goodfellow | Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister

Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA | The Executive Office

Room GD11 | Stormont Castle | Belfast | BT4 3WQ

✉ Mark.goodfellow@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk | 📞

I&S

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Private Secretary, or member of the Private Office, to an official must be saved appropriately by the main recipient/Business Area. The Private Office do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.