

EXECUTIVE OFFICE - OFFICIAL'S MEETING NOTE

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		TEO	
PURPOSE:		First Minister & deputy First Minister meeting with Minister for Health, CMO & CSA	
DATE:	19 January 2022	NOTE WRITTEN BY:	Jane Holmes
Venue – By zoom			
<p>LIST OF ATTENDEES: First Minister Paul Givan MLA (FM) deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA (dFM) Minister Swann Jayne Brady, HOCS Michael McBride, CMO Ian Young, CSA Richard Pengelly, Perm Sec DoH NR PS MoH Mark Ovens, Special Adviser MoH Dara O'Hagan and John Loughran, dFM Special Advisers, Philip Weir and Richard Bullick, FM Special Advisers</p> <p>Private Office TEO: Deirdre Griffith PPS FM, Donal Moran PPS dFM, NR PS FM, NR</p> <p>NR PS FM JM, NR PS dFM, NR PS dFM JM, EIS officials: Chris McNabb, Name Redacted TEO Officials: Karen Pearson, Peter Luney and Jane Holmes</p>			
<p>KEY POINTS</p> <p>Overview of health position CSA – R Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New baseline established for case numbers at 3-3.5k per day and since then have seen a rise in school aged children numbers, not yet peaked. - Other age groups - case numbers static or declining slowly - Hospital case numbers – admissions are over the peak with a 10% fall in last 5 days and in inpatient numbers - Number of hospital-acquired cases continues to rise - Potential secondary peak as a result of return of schools is likely in next 2 weeks - Primary school children needing to be absent from school is impacting on work force pressures - Average length of stay in hospital is reduced compared with previous peaks - Critical care cases are due to delta and there are about 5% cases are delta in the community <p>Relaxation Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview provided by Peter Luney <p><u>Questions/Comments</u> dFM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paper is overly complicated so may want to simplify. There is a direct link between face coverings and proof of exemption - Private dwellings – by keeping max at 30 is it still a messaging tool and making sure no massive house parties? 			

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Minister Swann – moving on guidance is something we can do quickly

dFM

- relaxations on 28th means back to pre-Christmas position and still requirement of wear face coverings unless dancing, eating, drinking
- risk assessments in hospitality? Still required and are inspected.
- road map for baseline measures? Should put a date on that for ease of messaging – 10 February suggested
- allows drafters working with ECT to prepare

FM –

- Need to also think about what Autumn-Winter measures can lift as move into Spring and these should be looked at on 27 January or 10 February
- In ideal scenario, would like all measures lifted when Assembly dissolves for election
- When are legal duties on businesses lifted as they are burdensome for businesses

Minister Swann – paper on 10 February bringing recommendations on remaining regulations in place would give some space.

dFM

- communications is important so should set dates against what we are going
- legal requirement on recording visitor information – ss this still an effective tool?

Minister Swann – yes; confirmed by CMO. TTP has worked well but we know cases are not being reported and some cases are asymptomatic.

FM

- Phase 1 – face coverings never implemented and number of households in private dwelling is in guidance so not changing much
- Could rule of 6 and seated requirement be implemented on 21st?
- Keep other changes on 27th?

PL – could explore with the drafting team

Minister Swann

- if is just lifting rule of 6, could be achieved. Also discussing self-isolation arrangements and could move to 21st as well. Could be added to the package for 21st.
- Hospitality change – rule of 6 + certification as a package on 28th January?

FM – move to nightclubs and indoor seated/partially seated of >500.

Minister Swann – intention that certification would become optional for rest of hospitality on 28 January.

FM – preference for changes on 28th January for nightclubs and review on 10 February

- Para 10 – retain legal responsibilities on retail and to encourage face coverings – think should be lifted and moved to guidance as no penalty associated with it. Cleaner to say we are back to decisions taken on 22 December and that other measures in place then will be reviewed on 10 February

Minister Swann – reading of the paper is that the legal duties would be reviewed on 10 February and they would be retained until then.

Minister Swann and dFM – need simple communications around this

Action – revisit and simplify (PL)

Minister Swann – removing certification for 21st is not achievable in drafting terms.

dFM – is the proposal?

- move rule of the 6 and requirement to be seated to phase 1
- Retain other proposals for 28th plus changes to certification

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Action – determine earliest date when rule of 6 and requirement to be seated in hospitality could be lifted

HOCS – if cannot be achieved on 21st would be 24th for all phase 1 measures plus removal of rule and 6 and seated requirement and then 28th for other measures + certification to only be for large indoor events and nightclubs

Minister Swann – if rule of 6 and seated can be achieved easily for 21st, should do that. Rest of phase 2 on 26th/27th plus changes to certification requirements.

dFM – if cannot make hospitality changes on 21st, should it all be done in one package the following week?

Agreed that the following should be explored:

21 January - Phase 1 to include removal of rule of 6 and requirement to be seated in hospitality plus self-isolation changes

27 January – remaining Phase 2 proposals + certification changes on

10 February – look at residual duties still in place

Meeting end

Actions	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none">determine earliest date when rule of 6 and seated could be achieved	TEO/DoH officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Draft WMS with indicative dates	TEO officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pull together a list of everything still in regulations and in guidance for 10 February Executive meeting	TEO officials

Jane Holmes