

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE – DO NOT SHARE WITHOUT PERMISSION

DAILY NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION REPORT 041

**Thursday 7th May 2020
Information correct as of 17:00**



Main Developments

- A further 4 deaths have been reported, bringing the total number of confirmed COVID-19 related deaths to 422.
- The Executive confirms the legislation has been reviewed and NI is not in a position to relax any lockdown restrictions at this time. The Executive also advised the public to consider the use of face coverings, for short periods of time, when in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible.
- DoH dashboard reported on 07 May there are 75 care homes with a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak, 35 further have a suspected outbreak and 16 outbreaks are closed.
- DfC confirm intention to launch a COVID-19 Charities Fund, valued in the region of £15 million, subject to Executive agreement.
- FSA to launch an industry portal with information on 'reopening and adapting food businesses during COVID-19' on 10/11 May.
- Traffic flow up 2.1% on previous day and 12.5% on the previous Wednesday.
- BBC reporting 27 members of staff at Muckamore Abbey Hospital have tested positive for COVID-19.
- BBC report states 14 deaths in Ringdufferin care home in Killyleagh. 39 residents have been confirmed as having COVID-19.

	Total Tests	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Total as of 07/05	34,752	3,984	422

Main Issues

	NEW ISSUES			
	Description	Lead//Owner	BRAG	Trend

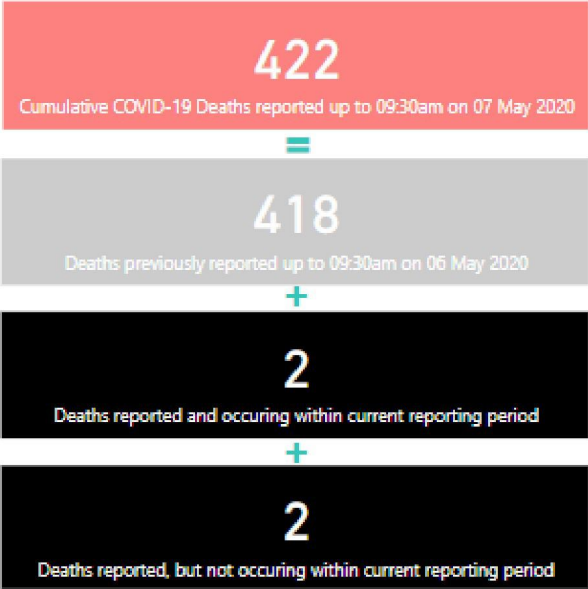
EXISTING ISSUES – YET TO BE RESOLVED				
	Description	Lead//Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	Cross departmental work ongoing, to obtain evidence to inform need for solutions to ensure haulage sector can support maintenance of critical supply chains. Financial support package for our three ferry operators across 5 Irish Sea routes agreed between UKG and the Executive.	DFI, DfE, DoF, DAERA	R	-
2	A number of higher education institutions across the UK have been amending their admissions practices, as a result of an anticipated significant reduction in international student fee income. On Monday, the UK Government announced a UK-wide package to address the issue. This package included some financial measures. However, the local institutions are reflecting on considerable impacts as a result of COVID-19 which could detrimentally affect institutional sustainability, and further National support is being sought.	DfE	A	-
3	DoF liaising with HMT/HMRC on SEISS (Self-Employment Income Support Scheme) identity requirements. At present NI driving licences and Irish passports are not accepted forms of identification.	DoF	A	-

Data Summary (1 of 4)

DoH Dashboard Analysis [Source: DoH Data Return 07/05]

There have been a further 4 deaths reported since 9.30am yesterday morning, bringing the total number of deaths to 422. Two of these deaths occurred since yesterday morning, with the remaining two death occurring over previous dates.

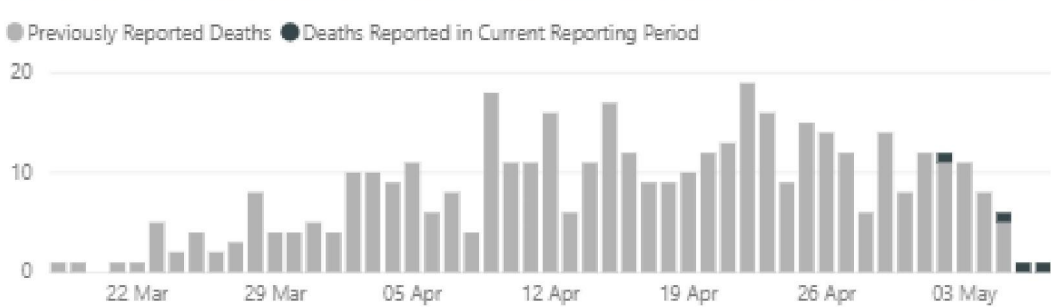
Breakdown of Deaths During Current Reporting Period



Cumulative COVID-19 Deaths by Date of Death



Previously Reported Deaths and Deaths in Current Reporting Period by Date of Death



	Total Tests	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Total as of 07/05	34,752	3,984	422

Data Summary (2 of 4)

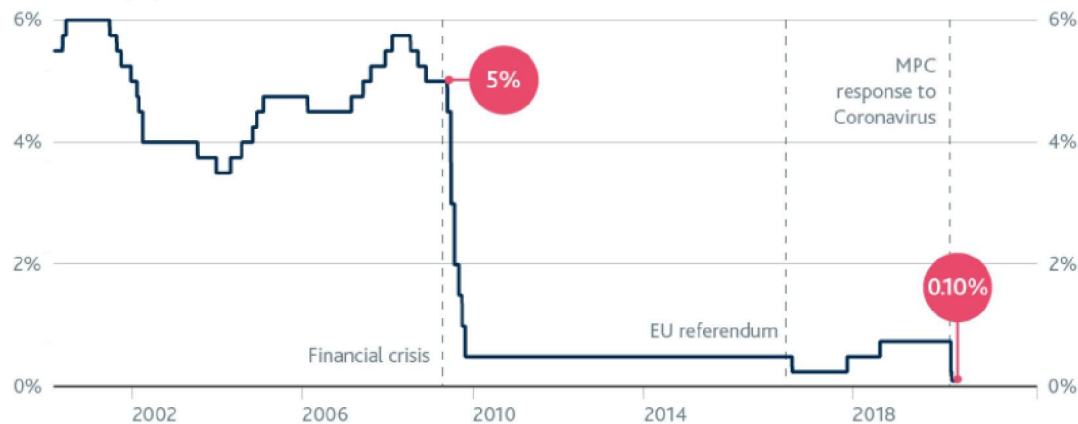
Monetary Policy Report and Interim Financial Stability Report - May 2020 (Bank of England 07/05)

Visa UK consumer spending

Percentage change on a year ago



Bank Rate (%)



Summary

- Many households have less money coming in as some people are working fewer hours and others have lost their jobs.
 - The latest surveys of UK businesses suggest that the fall in output has been large. Spending by consumers has also fallen sharply.
 - This disruption will be temporary. As the social distancing measures are lifted, the economy will recover.
-
- Bank of England have put in place a package of measures to support households and businesses.
 - They have cut interest rates to **0.1%**

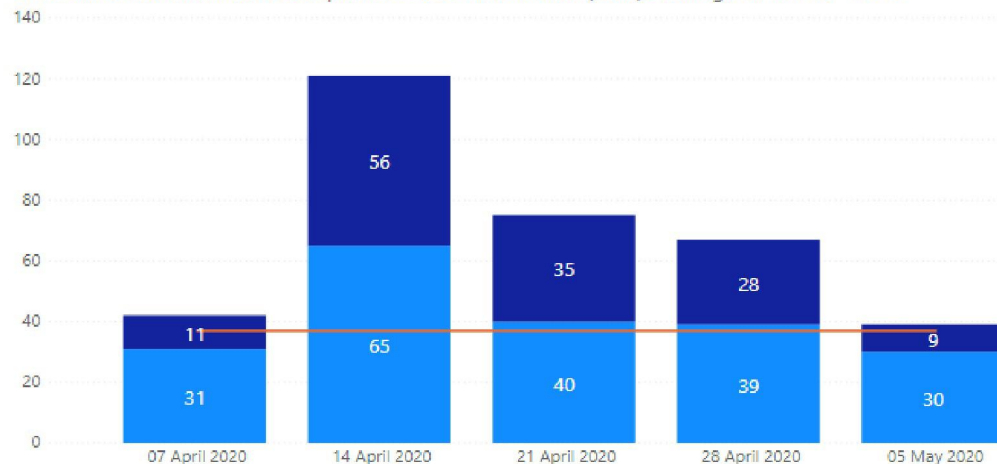
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Data Summary (3 of 4)

PSNI Operational Figures - Antisocial Behaviour (PSNI 06/05)

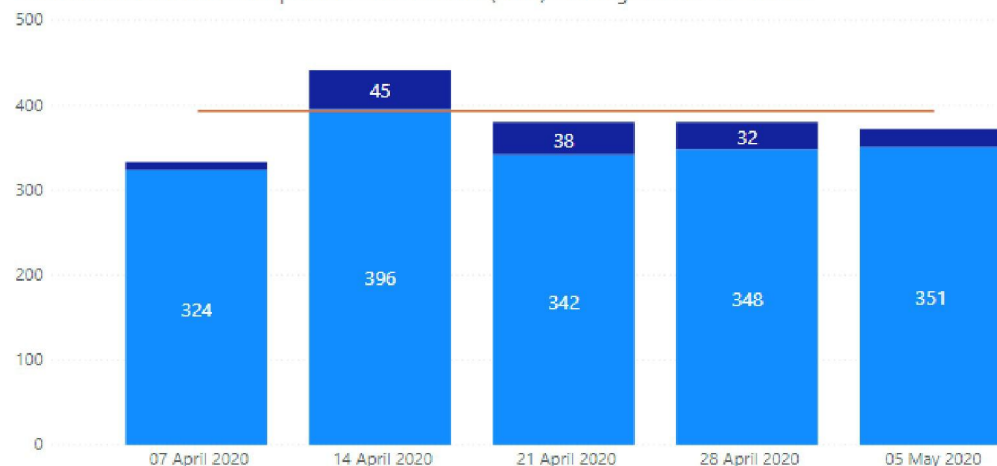
ASB Environmental (ASBE) vs Average for Mar 18 - Feb 20

ASB Environmental without Covid qualifiers ASB Environmental (ASBE) Average for Mar 18 - Feb 20



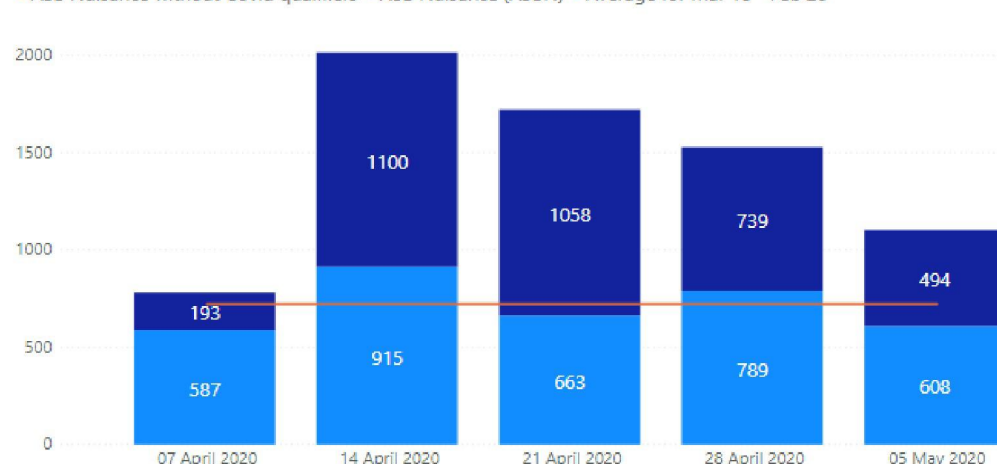
ASB Personal (ASBP) vs Average for Mar 18 - Feb 20

ASB Personal without Covid qualifiers ASB Personal (ASBP) Average for Mar 18 - Feb 20



ASB Nuisance (ASBN) vs Average for Mar 18 - Feb 20

ASB Nuisance without Covid qualifiers ASB Nuisance (ASBN) Average for Mar 18 - Feb 20



Key Takeaway

- Non-covid related Environmental and Nuisance related ASB has been close to the expected average
- Over the 5 weeks, when Covid Qualifiers are considered, there is an increase of 68% in Environmental ASBs and there are twice the amount of Nuisance ASBs.
- Even considering Covid Qualifiers Personal ASBs are lower than the expected average (except Easter week)
- Overall all Covid related ASBs are decreasing since Easter

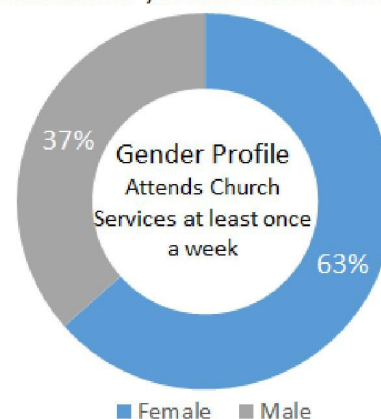
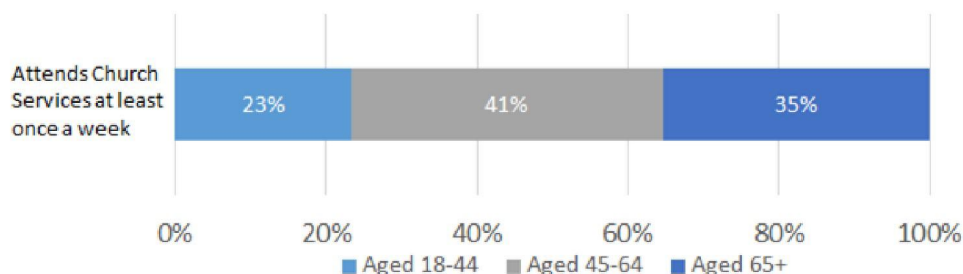
"The crime figures provided in the operational update are sourced from calls for service in order to provide up-to-date figures. However calls for service are a less accurate source of crime information and under-represent the number of crimes that will be recorded in the official PSNI police recorded crime figures. In the same way, these operational figures are not directly comparable with police recorded crime figures provided for England and Wales."

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Supporting Information (4 of 4)

Church Service attendance – NI Life and Times Survey (2018)

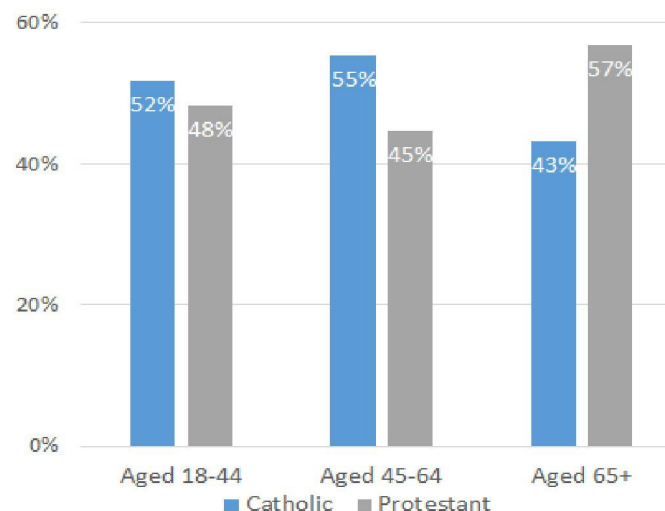
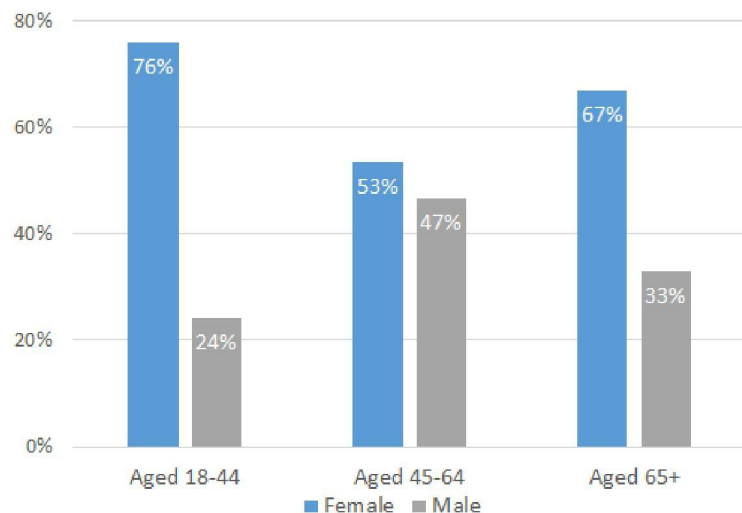
Around a fifth (21%) of respondents attend church services (excluding special occasions*) at least once a week



Key takeaways:

Of the people who attended church services at least once a week:

- over 3 in 4 were aged 45 and over, and 35% were aged 65 and over
- Almost 2 in 3 were female
- Females across all age groups make up a larger proportion than males
- Protestants make up a larger proportion of those aged 65+ than Catholics



* Special occasions is referred to in the question as "weddings, funerals, baptisms and so on"

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Current Media and Communications (1 of 2)

NORTHERN IRELAND

- The Executive confirms that the legislation has been reviewed and NI is not in a position to relax any lockdown restrictions at this time. The Executive also advised the public to consider the use of cloth face coverings for short periods in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible.
- DfC - Minister Hargey said she plans to launch a COVID-19 Charities Fund, valued in the region of £15m, to help support those local charities negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- DoH - Short animated infographics on the latest Workforce Appeal statistics.
- DoJ - LSA: The introduction of an Interim Payments Scheme commenced today and will see significant volumes of claims.
- DAERA - Social media - Appeal to public to adhere to restrictions and social distancing, in relation to DAERA Forest and Country parks.
- DAERA - Minister Poots has urged people once again not to fly-tip and to think twice about clearing out their house and gardens during the COVID-19 emergency.
- DE - Minister Weir interviewed on Radio Foyle this morning and discussed the circumstances and potential timescales for schools re-opening. Minister stressed he would be led by conditions not dates, there are many issues to be resolved first, and no decisions have been taken.
- BBC reporting dozens of dentists in NI have volunteered to work in care homes.
- Craigavon Area Hospital has dealt with 100 more admissions than the main Nightingale facility in Belfast.
- Cross departmental - Joint press release issued today to coincide with the publication by DfI of traffic stats with clear message to stay at home over the holiday weekend.
- BBC reporting that extreme domestic violence' is a concern for PSNI and 3 out of the 6 murders committed in recent weeks have been domestic incidents.

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Expected Media and Press in the next 1 – 2 days

- DoF - Irish News query on whether NI will receive Barnett consequential on the additional £76m support announced by UK Communities. DoF response – “We are engaging with Treasury to determine if we will receive a Barnett Consequential as a result of this announcement.”
- DoF - Despite being a public holiday, NISRA will still publish its Weekly Death Bulletin tomorrow 8 May 9.30am. There will likely be continued media interest in this analysis.
- DfI - Extension to MOT exemptions with automation of TEC process planned for 11 May.
- BBC reporting PSNI Chief Constable Simon Byrne’s concerns at recent levels of drink driving arrests, 494 since the beginning of March - 14 of which involved the same driver.
- BBC reporting PSNI Chief Constable’s remarks regarding the “level of severity” of domestic violence since lockdown measures were imposed in late March.

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Look Forward

1 – 2 Days	This/Next Week	>2 Weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●DAERA - Indication of issues with resilience of Private Water Supplies (PWS) due to prolonged dry period. DAERA officials working with NI Water and Councils to source bottled water, especially for those vulnerable, self-isolating or shielding, with limited access to support for bottled water. ●FSA will be launching an industry portal on food.gov.uk on Sunday 10/Monday 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●DAERA - Anticipated processing payments for Catching Sector Support Package will begin 11th May. ●DfE - The £40m Hardship Fund scheme aimed at micro businesses which have not been able to avail of the existing support schemes. Details including the eligibility criteria and application process will be release next week. ●DfE - The first meeting of the Minister-led Steering Group of the Tourism Task Force Working Group is expected to take place on 15 May. ●DfI - Continuing to monitor ferry capacity following concerns by operators that support may not be sufficient to allow them to maintain current service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●DfE - Delivery arrangements for the assessment/Award of Essential Skills will now be formally rolled out between CCEA, relevant AOs and learning centres as a matter of urgency. ●Cross departmental - Plan is in development with regards to vulnerable children and young people. ●DoH - The contact tracing service is due to be operational by mid May. ●DoF - Regional Rate Order passed by Assembly. Domestic rate bills are being prepared. They will be delivered to households in the first week of June.

Current Media and Communications (2 of 2)

UNITED KINGDOM

- Bank of England has forecast the UK is heading for its worst crash in more than 300 years.
- DEFRA have launched a dairy support scheme for farmers in England, targeting those who had loss of more than 25% income in April. It will compensate for 70% of lost income in April and May up to a maximum of £10K.
- Scotland's First Minister extends lockdown. The next review will take place on the 28th May however it is possible to make changes to the legislation should evidence suggest it is safe to do so before then.
- Some PPE from Turkey fails to meet safety standards.
- Scotland sees first weekly fall in deaths.
- Black people in the UK are 4 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than white people accordingly to ONS.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

- A third of people arriving in Dublin airport over the last six weeks have not completed the public health passenger arrival form to provide details of where they will be self-isolating, as this is not mandatory.
- CMO Tony Holohan doubled down on his advice to maintain the country's restrictive measures until 18 May.
- Following yesterday's widening of the criteria for testing, the CMO said it has led to an increase in the number of people referred for testing, but was not beyond the capacity of the HSE's testing system.
- Discussions continue with teachers' unions as to whether the Leaving Certificate exams (A-level equivalent) can go ahead on 29 July as announced in the government roadmap or whether there will be a move to predicted grades.
- The overall growth rates in new infections stays below 2%. The number of COVID-19 patients in ICU has reduced to 82.

OTHER

- The Financial Times is reporting a daily rise in global COVID-19 deaths for the third consecutive day.
- USA - A further 3.2 million Americans sought unemployment benefits last week as the economic toll from the coronavirus pandemic continued to mount.
- USA - New applications brought the total number of jobless claims since mid-March to 33.3 million.

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Theme – Health and Care

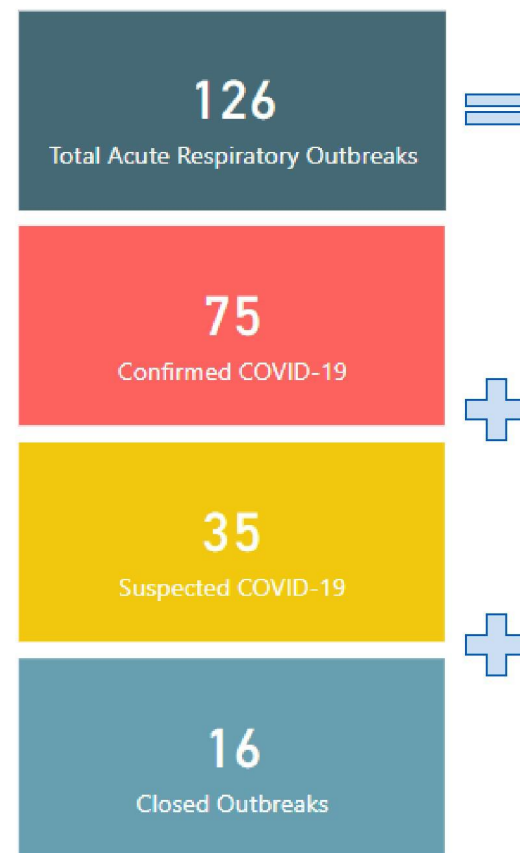
ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	Challenges regarding PPE provision – securing adequate future supply to ensure satisfactory replenishment levels.	DoH	A	-
2	Testing – Potential issue with the supply of reagents and kits used in laboratory testing.	DoH	A	-

PRIORITY DECISIONS			
	Decision	Deadline	Owner
1	No priority decisions to report.		

RECENT ACTIONS				
1	COVID-19 Guidance to accompany the Children's Social Care (Coronavirus) (Temporary Modification of Children's Social Care) Regulations (NI) 2020 issued on 6 May 2020.			

Data Summary

Care Home Outbreaks (DoH Live Dashboard)



Key Takeaway



There are 75 care homes with a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak, 35 further homes with suspected outbreaks and 16 homes with closed outbreaks.

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Theme – Economy and Infrastructure

ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	Cross departmental work ongoing, to obtain evidence to inform need for solutions to ensure haulage sector can support maintenance of critical supply chains. Financial support package for our three ferry operators across 5 Irish Sea routes agreed between UKG and the Executive.	DfI/ DfE/ DOF/ DAERA/ TEO	R	-
2	DoF liaising with HMT/HMRC on SEISS (Self-Employment Income Support Scheme) identity requirements. At present NI driving licences and Irish passports are not accepted forms of identification.	DoF	A	

PRIORITY DECISIONS			
	Decision	Deadline	Owner
1	No priority decisions to report.		

RECENT ACTIONS	
1	As of 07 May 22 livestock marts have re-commenced trading under new protocols
2	A6 Randalstown-Castledawson surfacing work has restarted.

Supporting Data (UK)

Unemployment scenario

● LFS Unemployment Rate ● LFS Unemployment Rate Scenario



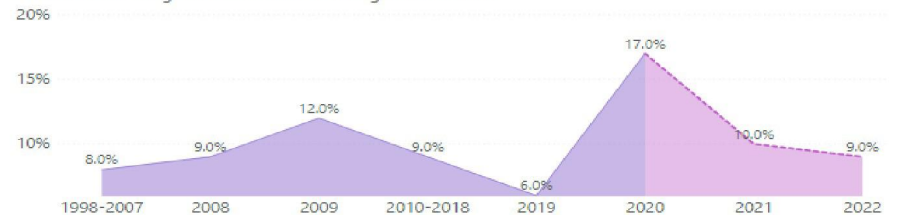
UK GDP scenario

● UK GDP ● UK GDP Scenario



Household savings scenario

● Household Saving Ratio ● Household Saving Ratio Scenario



Key Takeaway

The newly released Bank of England LFS (Labour Force Survey) scenarios highlight that this crisis will have a similar impact to the 2009 financial crisis, in terms of unemployment levels, but with a quicker recovery.

UK GDP will have a much larger drop than 2009, rebound higher and recover more quickly.

Source: Monetary Policy Report and Interim Financial Stability Report - May 2020 (Bank of England 07/05)



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Theme – Justice

ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend

PRIORITY DECISIONS			
	Decision	Deadline	Owner
1	No priority decisions to report.		

RECENT ACTIONS	
1	Interim Payments Scheme for law firms commenced 07 May.

Supporting Data

Prisons

Prisoners Self Isolating
104 ▲
was 101

Prison Staff Self Isolating
117 ▲
was 114

Staff/Family referred for testing
100 ▲
was 99

Source: DoJ
SITREP Return
(07/05)

Cases of COVID-19 in Prisons

Prisoners

1 ▶
no increase

Prison staff

5 ▶
no increase

Source: DoJ
SITREP Return
(07/05)

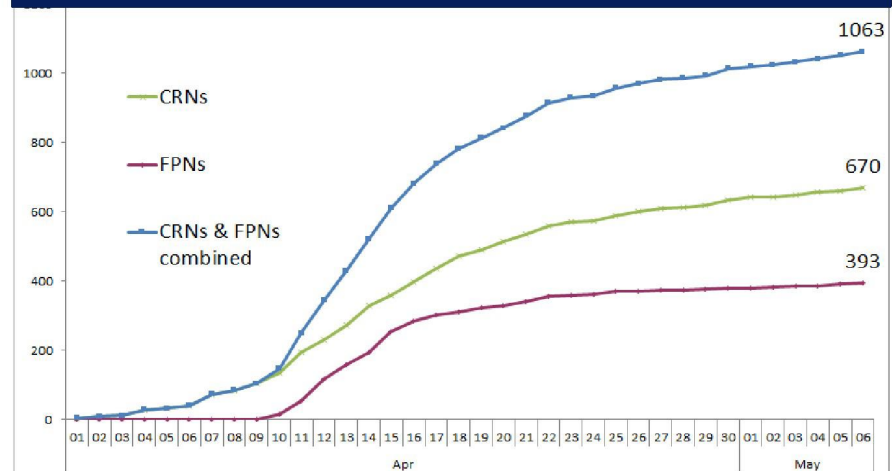
Temporary Release Scheme

142

prisoners have now been released

Source: DoJ
SITREP Return
(07/05)

Cumulative number of FPNs and CRNs to Date



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Theme – People and Communities

ISSUES				
	Description	Owner	BRAG	Trend
1	A number of higher education institutions across the UK have been amending their admissions practices, as a result of an anticipated significant reduction in international student fee income. On Monday), the UK Government announced a UK-wide package to address the issue. This package included some financial measures. However, the local institutions are reflecting on considerable impacts as a result of COVID-19, which could detrimentally affect institutional sustainability, and further National support is being sought.	DfE	A	-
2	EA key worker placement registration scheme – continuing to receive requests. At 6 May, 45 children waiting to be placed (a decrease of 2 from 5/05/20) of which 22 require immediate placement.	DE	A	

PRIORITY DECISIONS			
	Decision	Deadline	Owner
1	No priority decisions to report.		

RECENT ACTIONS	
1	The Minister for Communities issued a Press Release indicating her plans to launch a COVID-19 Charities Fund, valued in the region of £15 million, subject to Executive agreement.

Supporting Data

Food Packages for this week

8,382 food packages delivered this week



Source: DfC Data
SITREP (07/05)

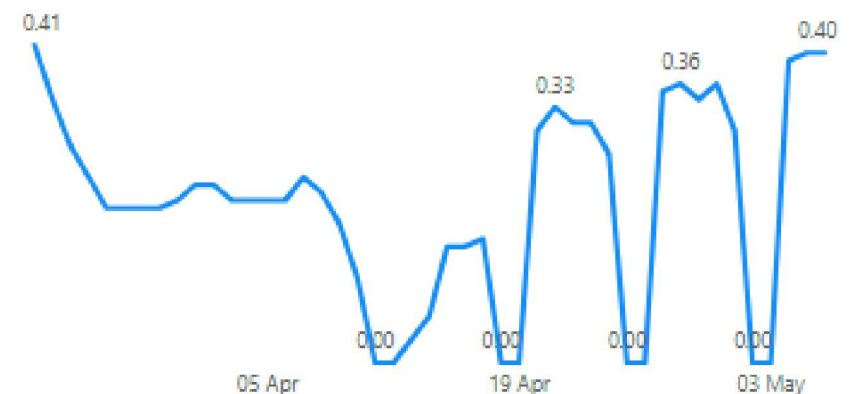
Northern Ireland's film industry

25 film and TV productions have been halted in Northern Ireland due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Source: BBC News
(07/05)

School Attendance Rate (%) By Date



482 schools were open on 06/05/2020 for 1387 pupils



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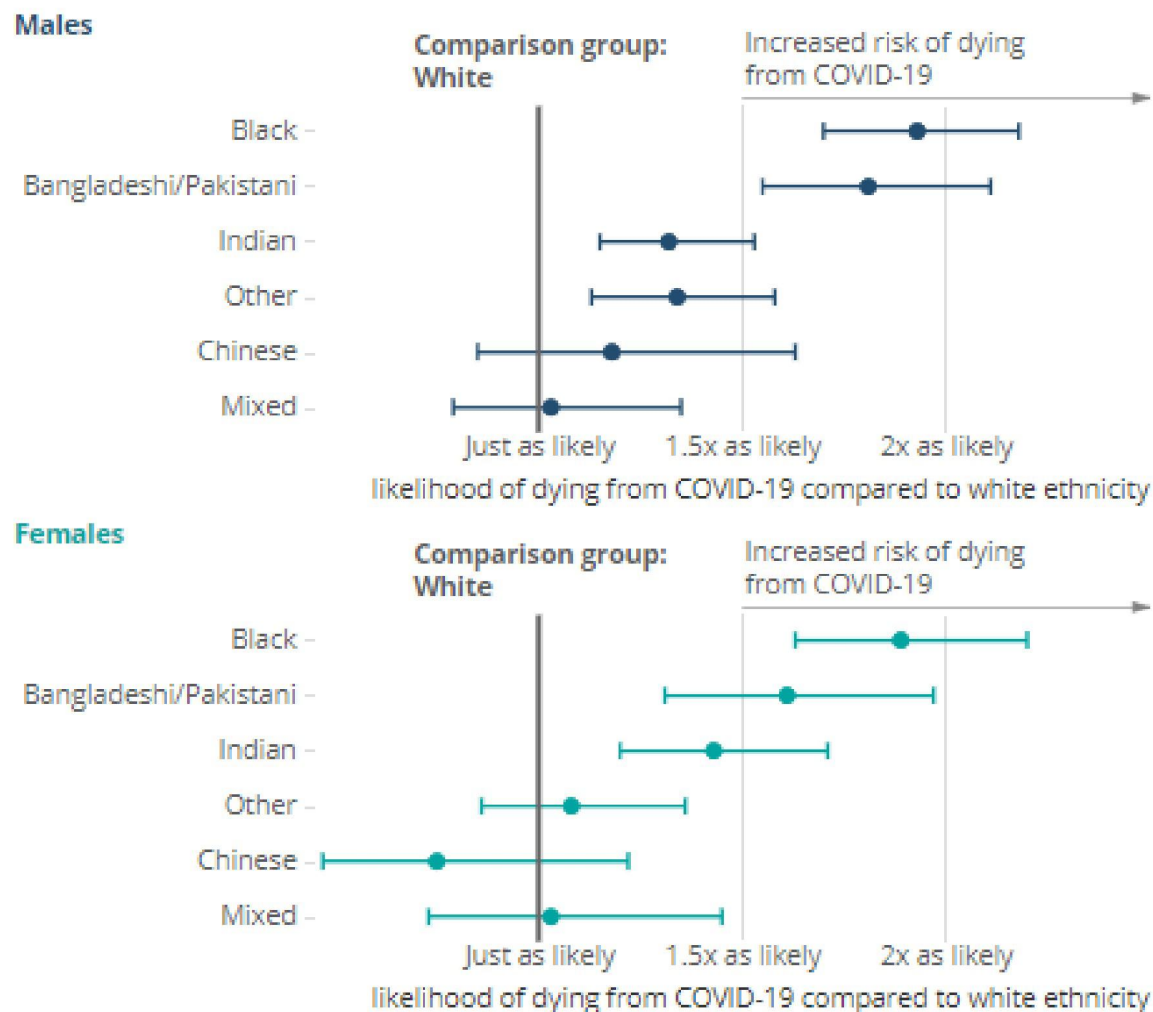
Supporting Information

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Supporting Information (1 of 4)

COVID-19 Deaths by Ethnicity Analysis (England and Wales deaths only) [Source: ONS]

- This provisional analysis has shown that the risk of death involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) among some ethnic groups is significantly higher than that of those of White ethnicity.
- After taking account of age and other socio-demographic characteristics and measures of self-reported health and disability at the 2011 Census, the risk of a COVID-19-related death for males and females of Black ethnicity is 1.9 times more likely than those of White ethnicity.

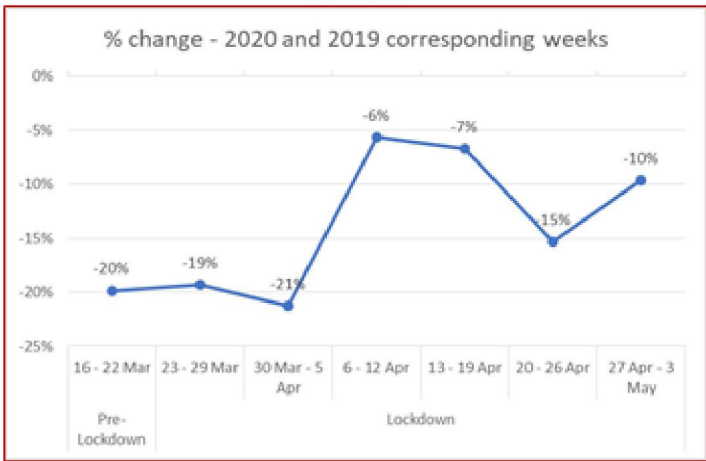


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Supporting Information (2 of 4)

Wellbeing Summary – Call Volumes (Northern Ireland Helplines) (Source: NISRA)

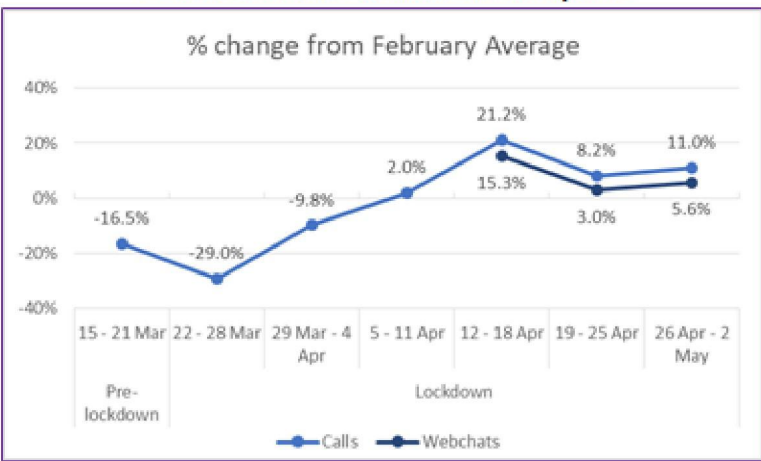
Lifeline



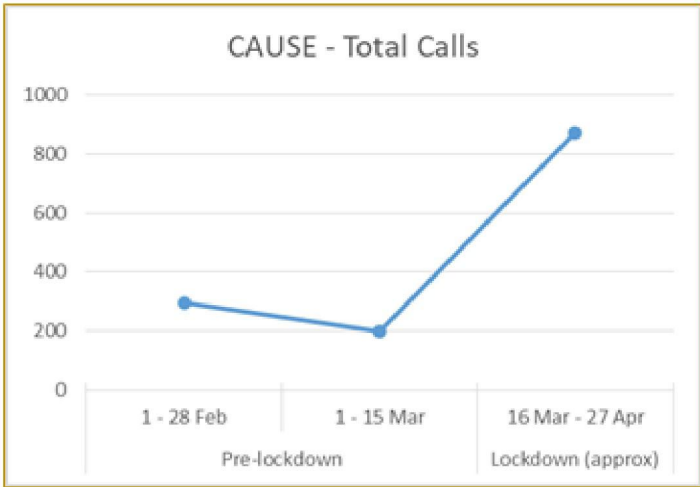
Summary:

- Calls **down 14% in total**, compared with the corresponding weeks in 2019
- **First two weeks** saw drop in calls of around a fifth
- Rise to near normal levels in w/s 6 April, before dropping again w/s 20 April.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline



CAUSE



Summary:

- Calls **up by 77%** in 6 weeks following lockdown, compared with 6 weeks previous
- Majority of calls since 1 Feb are from females (**90%**) and those aged 41-65 (**79%**)

Summary:

- **First two weeks** saw a drop in calls of around a quarter, compared with Feb average
- Call volumes began to steadily rise, peaking in w/s 12 April (**over a fifth higher** than Feb average)
- **Last two weeks** have call rates of **+10%** on Feb average
- Webchats are seeing increased traffic (+8% overall on Feb average), following same pattern as call rates.

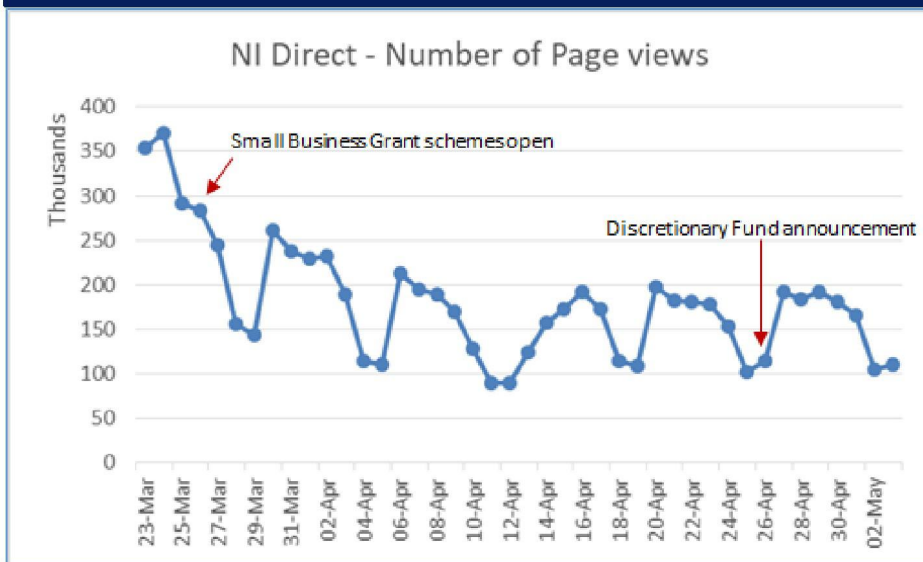
Barnardo's Summary:

- Call Volumes to Barnardo's child bereavement helpline are very small generally (<30 in a 6 week period)
- However, bereavement services both in NI and RoI have seen less engagement than usual during lockdown
- Majority of calls are from females

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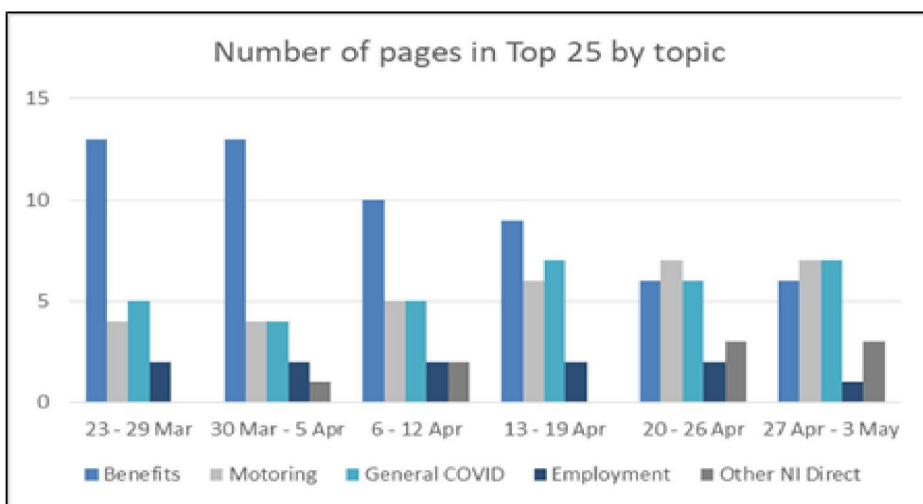
Supporting Information (3 of 4)

Public Engagement with Government Services – NI Direct website [Source: NISRA, : NI Direct, Google Analytics]



Key takeaway:

- NI Direct received high levels of traffic in the first two weeks of lockdown (w/s 23 March +62% on same week in previous year), and a dip around the Easter Holiday weekend, but traffic has since returned to a stable trend
- **Most page views in one day** occurred on **24 March** – day after lockdown announcement
- The **page with the most views in one week** across this period was the [COVID-19 campaign page](#) (155,537) followed by [COVID-19 and Benefits](#) (115,054), both in w/s 23 March.



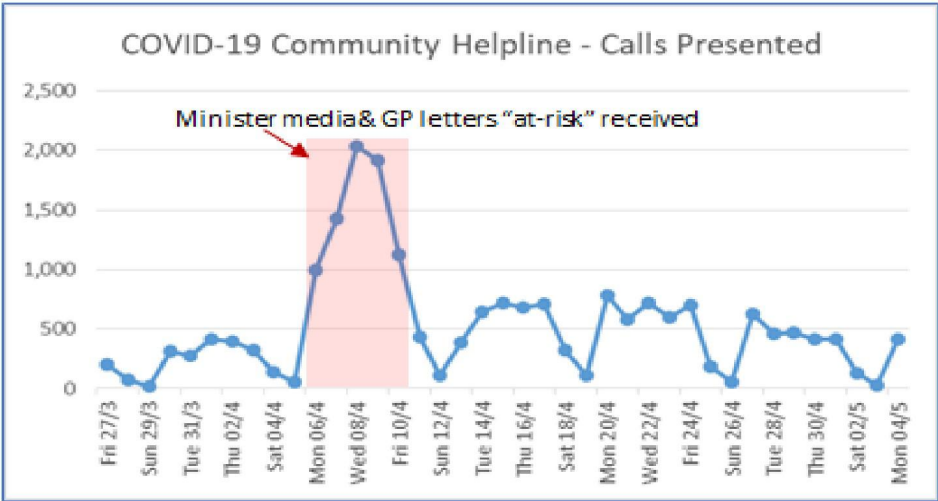
Key takeaway:

- When looking at the **top 25 NI Direct pages** each week, there was an **initial spike** in interest in pages relating to **Benefits**, which has since tailed off
- Interest in **General NI Direct pages** and **Motoring** (booking MOTs, renewing driving licences etc) **start to rise across time** (data stops ahead of Minister's announcement re 1 year exemptions)
- Increased interest in pages relating to COVID-19 advice likely reflects increased information available on the website.
- Most popular topic within **Benefits** is **Universal credit** with these pages accounting for **around a quarter of all traffic** to NI Direct across this period.
- In the **last 2 weeks**, interest in **Discretionary Payments** has accounted for just less than 10% of NI Direct traffic

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Supporting Information (4 of 4)

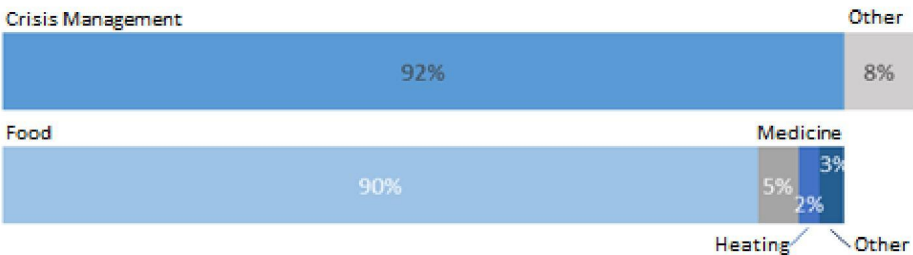
Public Engagement with Government Services – COVID-19 Community Helpline (Advice NI) and NI Direct Call centre (Source: NISRA, Dept for Communities (COVID Helpline) and Dept of Finance (NI Direct Contact Centre)



COVID-19 Community Helpline Key takeaways:

- Data begins on 27 March and helpline has generally seen a steady rate of calls on weekdays, with drop-off at weekends
- Highest calls in one day** = over 2000 on 8 April, coinciding with promotion by Minister and the receipt of GP letters by “at-risk” groups
- Call volumes have dropped since w/s 13 April and are now averaging around 460 calls per day
- Email and SMS have followed similar patterns

Breakdown by Topic (w/s 27 April)*



Key takeaways:

- In w/s 27 April, **92%** of calls were relating to **crisis management**
- Of Crisis management calls, **90%** were relating to **Food**, **5%** to **Medicine** and **2%** to **Heating**.

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