

21-12-20

7.55pm dFM

DOH update - Travel Advice.

DOH

Col have done this in the morning.
Area - advice - issue guidance -
avoid all but essential travel
- GB / ROI / NI
Self-isolate - 10 days.

LPP/LAP

Have not rec'd sequencing -
poss cases in NI.

dFM

Said we wd meet again when we
got your proposal - shd not be
surprised we are meeting
tonight.

FM

Apologise to officials - disgraceful
to work at this time - Xmas
week - apology from DUP.
Morning wd be better.

How many flights / passengers /
ferries / passengers
UK

Also from other EU countries.

Also variant in ROI

⇒ before we can take decision tonight.

DOF

Wd also like to know.

Expected re-open last night.

Close down travel in one part of island, leave other part open - creates funnel

Passengers coming to NI - using public transport to access ROI. Even Level 4 area - no way of distinguishing.

DOH paper - some steps forward.

Need to go further v fast.

Move immediately - take power to prevent travel to/from GIS.

Also non-essential travel - regs. Restrict people to own area.

Protect people on whole island

Inter-county ban in Sth, ban on non-essential travel here - whole island.

serious challenge - urgent.

Take steps ahead of variant, not come behind it. If don't need, can always relax rules.

Restrict family gatherings - but plane - loads of people arriving.

Propose amend^m to DPH paper -
move to legis - no travel GB/NI.

AFM DPH info - travellers?

DPH Only cross-border - maybe by end
of meeting.

AFM Numbers - DPH?

DPH No, we don't have.

FM Situation in Europe / ROI.

CMO Timeframe - samples NI -
24-48 hrs before we know if
variant is in NI.
Precautionary principle applies.
Isolated in London / SE England -
Sept.
Probably widespread.
France - no genotyping
ROI - 10%
GB - 5%
ROI - note big rise in trans-
mission similar to SE England.

CSA Indications - variant in all parts
of UK, but in small amts.
Likely to be in NI + ROI.
Recorded in Netherlands + poss
some other European countries

DOS

Role of testing, isolation.

People in NI - have to stay at home - but people from Tier 3 etc can travel to NI.

Genuine issues.

Public confidence - Scotland, we have acted on issue

Manchester - guidance to self-isolate.

Looks odd - we have taken no action.

People not allowed to travel from Tier 4 - but can travel from Tier 3.

High risk

Put travel in NI into regs - not proportionate - but travel from rest of UK - no consequence
Test/isolate travellers - reduce risk

CMO/CSA - hard to justify - we don't see as major risk, but 140 other countries + 2 home nations can travel UK - how can we justify?

CMO

One advice in paper.

Wales

Rapidly changing picture - don't know if it is prevalent.

Prevent it arriving.

If it is here - [I more limited.

Incubation period - 7 days, test,
2/3 days to result.

CSA Doubt our advice is different to
other countries - policy decision
for Ministers.

PM If follow DOF proposal, who will
pay compensation to ports,
airlines, trains etc.

dfm Advice - proportionate.
Have known since Sat.
Reluctance to hold Exec
meetings

PM Not true!

dfm Need to make decision on travel
date night.
Public health emergency - need
to act
DOF - proposal - proportionate.
New strain - if became dominant
strain - want to avoid, do all
we can in terms of travel.
Scotland, Wales, Manchester

PM Manchester - guidance.
Not true nothing is being done.

DOF Lot of people from Tier 4 areas
landing in BHS + travelling to

Dublin.

Risk - balance - financial cost/
overwhelming of health service.

Paper Doh - outlines issues.

Propose - amend Doh paper -
travel []

Try to get on top of v poor R
rate.

Threat to area - fast moving.

PM

Political issue.

If you were engaging with paper
- measures being asked for, give
clarity.

DOF

1st proposition - issue guidance,
underpin with legis.

PM

Wd take 3 days.

DOF

Regs right across island.

Have argued for more visible
enforce^u.

DOF

Legal clarity - if devolved, how
can UK govt introduce travel
ban? If we introduce, we
have to pay? Covered by
people's travel insurance
clarity now?

If we cancel travel from GB
to NI, need to cancel travel NI/
ROI.

If can't travel Bfs/Derry, shouldn't be able to travel Bfs/[Dublin]

Tier 4 - can fly from Luton/Heathrow - all in Tier 4.

Relying on UK Govt - don't think it's safe [I].

Glasgow/Bfs OK - but people can drive from elsewhere to Glasgow

Govt stopping people from Tier 4 getting on planes?

Flight from Glasgow - no return flight to Feb.

Unclear - insurance cover for cancelled travel

Tier 3/4 travel ban - not well policed.

dFM

Think if done in recess - competition issue

LPP/LAP

DAERA

DSF trying to apply logic - a bit late in the day

Hairdressers closed, off-licenses open - DSF supports.

Hysteria - hospitals - 95% capacity - not unusual.

Health service not overwhelmed - under pressure.

We have introduced v tough measures
Medical advice - we have followed up to now - but now doesn't suit

SF, so no longer want to follow med advice.

If people from ROI using Bfs H/PS, []

If want to create fortress NI. Df to say - how many police on the border to reinforce.

Ban flights/ferries - affects food supply.

Won't support.

o/fm

Ban passengers, not freight.

LPP/LAP

LPP/LAP

DPE

Again - strange situation. Those who always want to follow health advice don't want to follow this time.

Advice - weigh potential of ban against unintended consequences human rights.

Issue guidance while looking at issues.

LPP/LAP

LPP/LAP

DOF

LPP/LAP

FM

last night - CMO - 6000 people
pos cases, only 23 had been in
GB, lower level of variant.
Risk assess^W, proportionality
Variant - no more harmful.

DOF

Don't paraphrase my words +
present as position - asking
questions.

If don't have travel ban, check
docs of people arriving - if
coming from Tier 4, send them
back - don't allow in.

Let others travel onwards.

Seems more proportionate than full
shutdown.

Accept - variant no more dangerous

but faster transmission - will travel faster - impact on no of infections.

People coming in - to bubble for Xmas - will pass on virus.

A way to send message ~~the~~ ^{via} clear guidance - will be checked at A/P, not be allowed in.

Maybe more checks in departure a/p.

Ed we reinforce regs in England / Wales?

dfm

Not sure who cd answer.
Wd take time.

DPE

Last week, restrictions for NI - cd not proceed until we knew we had enough funds to cover.

Need to know quantum of cost for compensation.

Take Doh advice - allow officials to do work.

dfm

Hope you are not calling other mins dishonest.

DJP

Answer my question - enforce travellers from Tier 4 - not allow in

LPP/LAP

People already travelling.
Here + now, Xmas on the.

What wd our standing be - return people to Tier 4 area - shouldn't have to compensate, they shouldn't be travelling.

LPP/LAP

LPP/LAP

dfm DOH asking - health view re
[I,

DOH lot of info in paper - how to cover financial implications;
TH - don't know how long it wd take to draft reg - send back.

DOH Transfers responsibility to airlines - if they let people travel.

DOH Onus on airlines - check before they

get on plane.

DOH Another bullet pt - seek assurance on how TH being managed / travel

Interaction - HMG/airlines - not for DOH.

Here + now - issue guidance, allow other work to be done.

Big undertaking - draft regs.

Planes / ferries - essential people - companies will look for compensation - lost earnings.

lot of questions - not answers, needs work on detail + assess implications, proportionality etc.

DOH - don't have ability to do this. We have officials drafting regs for 26 Dec, this will be another large task.

Issue guidance - self-isolate if you come into NI. Big step - puts people off travel.

Questions being asked - we are considering issues - put in guidance while considering.

DFI

LPP/LAP

Understand in my own mind. Want to do something, but need info on compensation. Why are other countries moving

faster — perfection is enemy of good.

Let variant into NI.

If we don't know extent of variant, we can't act — DTH.

DDF — better to be ahead than behind.

LPP/LAP

LPP/LAP

DE

Follow DTH proposal.

Fortress NI — has to apply across board, have to include RDT border.

LPP/LAP

Financial implications — enormous, level of support for ports, A/R — doing this in the dark.

Other jurisdictions — not as dependent.

on ports / A/Rs.

Need level of care. Position - DTH - as far as we can go.

Not a question - perfection key aspiration.

Lack of data.

Balance - no info on no of passengers, ports, Enterprise.

DTH proposal - safest approach.

JMK. Lot of good things done by Exec - dissent into acrimony, suspicion.

Rapidly deteriorating scenario. Can it be about unpicking health advice.

Policy issue.

Proposal from Df - get ahead of the curve.

Fundamentally - DTH content - trajectory.

Helpful or not helpful - supplementary.

If they feel they have enough at present, OK.

All options on table.

JML Paper - DTH, advice - risk low - virus coming via GB.

Travel already significantly curtailed from GB.

Lot of questions - put into regs?

Financial support.

dFM - have said - never deviated from health advice.

But SF briefing media, tweeting - want this to happen - travel ban.

DOH - paper, takes all issues into account.

LPP/LAP

dFM DOH paper
DOF proposal.

DFE Before we consider - DOH to ask
GR colleagues - how dealing with
airlines?

DOF Ask GR Govt - how handling -
one of my proposals.
We are all political.
Fast spreading virus - will infect
SP more people, hospital
services already struggling.
Lot of people travel from GR for
Xmas - bigger risk of infection.
We are funnel for increased
travel for island of Ireland.
Urgency.
Don't propose to change DOH
position
Take decisions urgently.
Open-door policy.

Proposal - assist with action to reduce threat.

Reinforce - policy terms, underpin with legis.

DOH

What DOF is saying - is in paper.

Undertake preparatory work.

Sky News already reporting

- DOF falling out with DOH.

Narrative already set for this meeting.

DOF proposal similar to paper - need prep work, answer to Qs.

DOF

Sent letter - went to all Min.

Don't get Sky.

Already in position - our slowness has increased risk.

Need strong message - move fast.

Guidance - needs to be stronger

DOH

Funnel - Irish Govt commissioning planes to bring people home - banned commercial flights.

DOF

Paper - gives no signal of urgency.

Propose - move to legis

dFM

Guidance - immediate, move to

logis a.s.a.p.

DOH Bullet Pt 2 - move to logis if necessary

AFM Saying 'if necessary'. Clear it needs to be done.

DOH CMO / CSA advice
Proportionality - can be used before we know if it is here.

AFM Not accepting DOF proposal?

DOH Understand thrust of proposal.
See in writing?

FM Wants to move ahead even though we have no info - cost, proportionality etc
x Record - not in favour of proposal - will be judicial reviews.

DOF Not much difference between paper + proposal - don't know scale of risk. Not an option to finish meeting without decision - DOH - do not travel.

Repatriate TH people - up to airline to deal with, not our problem. Risk of being turned away. Can make strong statement

strong guidance, move towards
legis.

Don't know numbers, how can
we make substantive decision.

T4, T3 people - stay put.

Revisit - travel within NI -

Taskforce to address.

If we say - arrive from T4, isolate
for 10 days or be sent back.

Most people will choose not to
travel.

Make robust announce^m - will
encourage airlines to stop
people travelling.

Reasonable to make clear.

Regs won't be in place

immediately. Need something
in place by Xmas Eve.

Human Rights - impact on those
who have already travelled
- restrict contacts.

DOH

DOF proposal - urgently

Bullet Pt 5 - already refer to
this.

Not too far apart DOH/DOF.

dtm

2nd bullet pt - come back if
required.

DOF

DOF issues

No sense of urgency - need to

be seen to move fast.

Issue guidance tonight, move to legis.

Anecdotal info - large no of people arriving - Rfs City, wanting to go South.

Signal - urgent action.

DOH

Legislating before we have answers - proportionality.

We are asking lot of Qs.

Paper - prepare legis, use if we determine it necessary / proportionate.

LPP/LAP

LPP/LAP

Move to guidance now.

DOF

Wd be new year.

Have made lot of decisions at pace. We are hesitating.

Situation becoming more urgent.

Signal - moving to legis urgently.

DFM

DOF proposal - urgent, immediate effect.

Agree^m?

FM

Need vote.

DOH

Develop^m of legis OR implementation?

DOF Implementation.

DOH Going to implement Ban even if it emerges is not required?

DOF Vulnerable

DOH Travel guidance - QR and RQI?
Same speed/intensity.

DOF legis - travel restrictions in
Nth - same as RQI.

FM Ban - QR but not RQI.

DOF Ban - non-essential travel.

NS. DOF proposal

FM against

dfm for

DAERA against

DFC for

DRE Against

DE "

DOF for

DOH Against - support own
proposals

DFT for

DOJ Against - vote for DOH

NS - voted down.

DOH - propose vote for re-comm in my paper - guidance - non-essential travel to be banned - GB / NI / ROI.

DFI Definition of essential travel?

DOH In bullet pt.

Reqs re local travel - 26th Dec for 1 week - stay at home - in reqs for week.

DOY Stay at home - restrictions in NI reqs - PSNI view. What are we agreeing? Task force?

DFM Task force paper in the morning. Separate issue.

DOY Include TH + T3 people - stop from travelling.

DOH Covered at Pt 3

DOY What are we doing? We can't make GB enforce - what will we do? Breaking GB law - how do we ensure this happens?

DOH

Add/amend bullet pt - content.

dFM

Agree DOH paper? (yes)
(Amends).

Task/prce paper tomorrow.

CMCN

Agree - guidance to be issued.
Is guidance ready to be published?

dFM

Don't know.

DOH

Redrafted paper.
Guidance not ready.

Issue guidance ^{against} all but
essential travel between NI,
GB + ROI.

CMCN

Media will want copies of
guidance.

dFM

DOH Recomm - shd have
guidance ready.

CMO

Did have previous list of
essential guidance re travel
- work, childcare etc.

CMCN

Advising non-essential travel

to be banned.

Full definition before tomorrow
a.m.

Need holding line

Further detail at tomorrow's
Exec.

DOH paper - travel from GB + ROI
- self-isolate for 10 days.

DOH

Going back to CMCN pt.

Essential guidance put together
by TED - K Pearson to draft.

Didn't get your way with vote,
want DOH to take on work.

~~So~~ If definition already there,
develop it a.m.

DOH

Not flying home for caring.

Essential travel - work etc.

Not talking re support bubbles.

Going down rabbit hole.

Message - don't travel.

Don't know alternative to that,
Need to be clear.

DOH - develop legis, look at
proportionality.

CMCN

Media will ask - what is
essential?

DOH

FCO website - definition of
essential travel.

CMLCN

Saying - Gxec has agreed -
no non-essential travel
NI / QB / ROI.

dfm

OK.

11.55 End.