

FINAL MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 13 MAY 2021

MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Justice

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)

Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division
Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer
Professor Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser
Ms Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations

Attorney General for Northern Ireland

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired agenda items 1 - 4.

1. The First Minister advised of apologies received from the Secretary to the Executive.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Minutes of previous meetings

10. The First Minister advised that guidance on Working from Home was being considered by the Cross-Departmental Working Group, and would be brought to the Executive in the coming weeks.

11. The Minister of Health emphasised the importance of maintaining a contact tracing regime as an integral element of the programme of relaxations.

LPP/LAP

13. The Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser advised of their preference for an incremental approach to easing of restrictions.

14. The Minister of Justice advised of her concern regarding late circulation of Executive papers.

15. Following discussion, and amendment to a number of recommendations contained in Executive Memorandum E (21) 104 (C), the Executive agreed a range of relaxations and associated mitigations which were included in a 'Statement on Executive Decisions 13 May 2022', published following the Executive meeting, as attached at Annex A to these minutes.

16. The Minister of Health and the Minister for Infrastructure did not support the Executive's decision, referenced at Annex A to these minutes, to "Increase

Statement on Executive decisions 13 May 2021

Date published: 13 May 2021

Thanks to the efforts of the public and the continued success of our vaccination programme, we are in a position to signal a further set of relaxations. We also discussed issues around international travel and travel within the CTA.

Covid-19 Executive Update

To assist preparations for reopening, we have also agreed the detail of conditions under which some of the sectors will operate.

We have good news for those with marriage and civil partnerships planned, as well on indoor visits in domestic settings and for the hospitality sector and for those needing a hug from families and friends.

In relation to our previous decisions, which come into place on 24 May, subject to a review on the 20 May, we have decided the following:

Reopen unlicensed and licensed premises indoors with mitigations

The Executive has previously indicated that hospitality will re-open fully, with mitigations, on 24 May. This will be subject to a ratification decision on 20 May.

The Executive discussed this again today, noting that the Covid data continues to have a generally positive direction of travel. The Executive remains committed to re-opening on 24 May and provided the data remains generally positive, that decision will be ratified. We recognize the steps the sector has taken to be ready for re-opening and it is important that we give clarity as soon as we can.

The Executive has also looked carefully at the mitigations which need to be put in place and we stress again the importance of contact details for test and trace. We have considered the seating arrangements again, and subject to review on 20 May, we will relax the table settings for indoor and outdoor hospitality to permit 6 people to sit together, removing the restriction on the number of households they can be from.

Other conditions are:

- Children under 12 are not counted in the 6
- Table service only
- More will be permitted if all are from one household, to a maximum of 10.