

Arlene Foster & Michelle O'Neill
First Minister & Deputy First Ministers
NI Assembly
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3XX

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12 May 2020

Dear First Minister & Deputy First Ministers

I hope you and your families are safe and well. I am mindful that we have not had the opportunity to meet since the Executive reconvened and I appreciate how incredible busy you have both been.

As you would expect during the pandemic, my office has continued to engage with all relevant departments meeting with Ministers and senior officials as and when necessary. These meetings have been productive and helpful. However as plans for the easing of the lockdown are developed, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how the pandemic in Northern Ireland has affected and is likely to continue to impact on children and young people and how they can be involved in making decisions in the future.

You will have seen that many leaders across the world have had press conferences with children. These have been important events as they remind children that even though they are the group least directly affected by the virus, other aspects of their lives have been deeply impacted on and that their government is aware of these affects and is addressing them. Therefore I would like to recommend that you and your executive colleagues consider such an event or preferably a series of events (addressing different aspects) during the CoVid 19 crisis. Naturally, my office would be very happy to offer any advice that you might require to make these press conferences a success. We have already discussed with Minister Weir how he plans to engage with young people on education issues.

I hope that you are agreeable to a virtual meeting and I will ask my **NR** **I&S** to contact your office to arrange a suitable time.

NR

Best wishes

Personal Data

Koulla Yiasouma
Commissioner

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