

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

UK Cabinet will meet to consider and discuss options. Want to make sure as coordinated a UK approach as possible. At the moment, PM, CSA and CMOs are considering how we can expedite. Want to have that meeting asap so can be introduced timely.  
Dont have a time for that meeting yet but early next week.

Mark Drakeford -

Arlene - thank you. Welcome that govt will put in place for those on benefits. Want to have a discussion at DA level about working poor and how we might support them. Keen to have a shared approach across the UK. Support Nicola's call for a COBR. Health ministers have been in touch, know that tiered approach

Mark joined

Health measures - will discuss how NI can move forward with tiered approach. Look forward to COBR next week.

CDL - to deputise mark, incidence of infection is increasing across the UK> Need to reflect on what more we can do, Nicola has requested a COBR, UK cabinet discussing what steps we should be taking. Will be a COBR early next week.

In England - new tiered approach, more certainty about each step for local lockdowns. 3 tiers - 1 is as you were, 2 is greater degree of constraints, 3 is fullest lockdown while maintaining economic and education activity.

UKG proposing to make available sum of £500 for those who are required to self iso. In England doing that through LA, using DWP database. Each DA will get Barnett. Up to DAs whether you want to use that money.

Will include those on UC and those in receipt of in work benefits.

Mark - Helpful, thank you. Glad to hear there will be Barnett, we've argued in these calls for a while that there's a perverse incentive for people to go to work when they're not well if they are on low incomes. Anything we can do to help is an advantage. Strongly support COBR. Plea for us to not be relying on ad hoc meetings arranged at short notice. Need to get these calls in the diary. Next few weeks will be challenging for us all, need a regular and reliable point in the week where we know that we'll be sharing information, not a last minute scramble.

Wales - more so that S and NI, changes across our border have such a direct impact. Changes in Merseyside - just a few miles away from hundreds of people living in N Wales and working across the border. We have a very direct way to understand what's happening and to be able to contribute information and intelligence to help make decisions even better.

CDL - as you may know, the UKG have COVID S and COVID O. Our intention is to make sure that, while some decisions are England only, I propose that as well as increasing tempo of COVID O meetings, that where relevant we make sure that DAs are involved. To make sure there's a helpful guide of regular meetings, to make sure you have view of what the agenda will be in advance.

Mark - will be very helpful, we will make sure we are always represented when meetings have a relevance.