

Message

From: Stewart, Chris (TEO) [chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk]
Sent: 08/03/2020 2:19:20 PM
To: TEO HOCS (DS) [HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]; Stewart, Chris (TEO) [chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]
CC: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Covid 19 - the week ahead

David

Thank you. Lot's to think about there. No obvious gaps, but I would add that I think we will need an agile N/S link when we move to soft stand up, via Taoiseach's Office (link already established), NSMC in due course, and probably the embassy. Thoughts on the other points are below.

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From: TEO HOCS (DS) [mailto:HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 08 March 2020 12:55
To: Stewart, Chris (TEO) <chris.stewart@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk; TEO HOCS (DS) <HOCS@executiveoffice-ni.gsi.gov.uk>
Subject: Covid 19 - the week ahead

Chris

Just thinking about the week ahead I foresee us needing to address the following issues:

1. The move from Containment to Delay: the CMO is working on advice which seems likely to conclude that we are a week or two behind England and hence it seems likely he will advise we should not move to Delay here immediately. He will be in the lead on this through the CMO network but we will need to oversee the advice to ministers, taking account of their movements this week (London on Monday and US from Wednesday morning until Saturday morning). EIS and DoH will need to manage the messaging of this especially if there is a major announcement on Wednesday. The N/S dimension will also need managing. **Agreed. Michael may need our help in managing the political reaction.**
2. Cab Sec request for risk assessments, due tomorrow (Monday) morning: you/CCPB are coordinating this. We will need to consider how/when we share and/or clear this with ministers. **and the CMO...**
3. CO request for Impacts and Mitigations analysis (directed at DE and DfC): the CMO has advised that there is no particular need for this work to be completed in the timescale set by CO and that it would be impossible to produce something with any precision at short notice. This is undoubtedly correct but we will need to mend fences with CO who may escalate our non-compliance to ministerial level. **Indeed, that was my concern last night, when two requests for input from CO had received no response (a response did eventually issue this morning). Past behaviour suggests that CO will approach NIO, who will come to you or, worse still, FM and dFM.**
4. FCO advice re travel to N Italy: do I need to make peace with CMO? It was largely down to me that FM and dFM raised this with SOSNI (though on the basis that we were asking FCO to look again at their advice rather than with a view to us departing from FCO advice). Nonetheless, I probably should have run this past Michael first. **He is clearly annoyed, but you should be aware of the full sequence: Derek approached me on Wednesday, indicating that he had already raised the matter of the FCO Italy advice by telephone with Robin Swann, and asking for the Hub to be stood up for centralised decision making. I explained that stand up would be premature and that, in any case, I and colleagues in**