

**OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE****Minutes of Meeting held on 7 April 2020**

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 April (SC(20)13th Conclusions) were approved.

**COVID-19: Coronavirus Update**

2. The First Minister invited the Interim Chief Medical Officer and Ms Freeman to provide Cabinet with an update on the progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and the work under way to counter its effects.

3. Dr Smith reported that, as at 9 a.m. on 14 April, there were 6,358 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection in Scotland – an increase of 291 cases compared with the previous day – and 1,797 of these were being treated in hospital beds (where occupancy was 56 per cent overall). Over recent days, there had been a slowing in the number of new patients admitted to hospital, and numbers now seemed to have reached a ‘plateau’, which could in part be explained by the effect of the social distancing measures which had first been introduced some four weeks previously.

4. The total number of reported deaths in Scotland now stood at 615, an increase of 40 compared with the previous day (although day-on-day movements in the number of deaths were likely to fluctuate due to lags in reporting). Of the 266 patients in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) the previous day, 211 were COVID-19 patients and 55 had been admitted as a result of other conditions. As a result of recent efforts to increase ICU capacity, there was still sufficient headroom to meet demand.

5. As far as medical supplies were concerned, active consideration was being given to ensuring that adequate stocks were maintained, with particular attention being given to some categories, such as muscle relaxants used in ventilation procedures and personal protective equipment (PPE). All possible efforts were being made by NHS National Procurement to identify additional sources of supply for NHSScotland.

6. That week, meetings of both the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group and the (UK-level) Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies would consider how social distancing measures should evolve over time as the pandemic progressed, including how they might, in time, be relaxed. Advice would be produced for Ministers’ consideration in advance of that week’s meeting of the UK Cabinet Office Briefing Room (Ministerial) meeting (COBR(M)), in which the First Minister would take part. Thus far, there appeared to be a consistency of both the underpinning analysis and the application of measures across all four UK nations. Detailed discussions would be required in order to address the range of issues that would arise when the various components of ‘lock down’ might be lifted. There had been no discussion of when easing of the restrictions might begin. Until then, it would be important that communications to the public were unequivocal in repeating the current public health advice as informed by the available science.