

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 8 JULY 2021

MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

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

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

Interim Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service
Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division
Sir Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer
Professor Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser

LPP/LAP

INTRODUCTION

The First Minister chaired agenda items 1 - 4.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (21) 36

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of 1 July 2021

1. The Executive agreed the minutes of the Executive meeting of 1 July 2021 subject to the inclusion of an amendment by the Minister for Infrastructure.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Covid-19 Report by the Minister of Health

2. The Minister of Health provided an update on the vaccination programme, including progress made with walk-in vaccination sites. He advised that he was due to meet with sporting organisations to discuss how to encourage vaccine uptake.
3. The Chief Scientific Advisor gave a presentation on, and the Executive discussed, statistical data relating to the pandemic. He noted the continued rise in positive cases and test positivity, with the delta variant now dominant. Infection rates remained highest among the younger age groups, although there had been an increase amongst the over 60s. He also advised of increases in infection rates across all local government areas, and provided comparisons of positivity rates with England, Scotland and Wales. He advised that hospital admission rates were increasing, with 2-3% of infections requiring hospitalisation, although inpatients and ICU occupancy remained low compared with earlier stages in the pandemic. An update on the modelling was provided, with the CSA noting that the trend was currently tracking the central scenario.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from previous meetings

4. The First Minister advised that the action log had been circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COVID Management

Executive COVID Taskforce – update

5. The Secretary to the Executive advised that the ECT Dashboard and the weekly written update on the Executive COVID Taskforce had been circulated to Ministers. She drew Ministers' attention to the briefing on the NICS New Ways of Working project appended to her written update and advised that more information would be provided to the Executive on implementation and next steps in September.

date of reopening of 26 July, with reference 9 given an indicative date of 12 August.

- ii. The relaxation at reference 3: Indoor Domestic settings should be amended to permit 10 people from no more than three households.
- iii. The relaxations outlined in amber (references 10-14) at Annex A will be subject to ratification at the Executive meeting on 22 July, and given an indicative date of reopening of 26 July.
- iv. The relaxations outlined in white (References 15, 17-20) at Annex A will be brought to the Executive meeting on 12 August for decision.
- v. The relaxation at reference 16: full return of extracurricular and support activities and youth services, would be considered earlier in conjunction with the relaxation outlined at reference 14.
- vi. The relaxations outlined in red (21-28) at Annex A will be discussed in more detail at the Executive meeting on 12 August.

15. The First Minister wished to record that DUP Ministers were content for 10 people from three households to meet indoors from today (8 July); and that DUP Ministers, and the Minister of Justice, were content for concert venues, theatres and other indoor venues to open today (8 July) in line with point 7 in Annex A.

E (21) 156 (C) International Travel- Travel Relaxations for Fully Vaccinated Passengers

16. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.

17. Following discussion, the Executive agreed that from 26 July arrivals from amber list countries who have been fully vaccinated in the UK will not have to self-isolate or take a day 8 test post-arrival.