

Teleconference - Department of Health and Independent Sector Providers

26th March 2020

Participants:-

DoH

Sean Holland

Mark Lee

Jackie McIlroy

Name Redacted

Name Redacted

Independent Sector Providers

Pauline Shepherd

JP Watson

Carol Rafferty

Patrick McQuade

Pierre Burns

Lesley McGarrity

Douglas Adams

Ryan Williams

Background

1. Sean Holland set out the background to the Teleconference. He emphasised both the Independent Sector (IS) and the Statutory Sector are part of the same system.
2. It was agreed the Teleconference would focus on three areas:-
 - a. PPE;
 - b. Financial Support to the Sector ; and
 - c. Testing

PPE

3. It was agreed there were two current issues:-
 - a. Access to stock; and
 - b. When to use
4. Providers advised they felt the extant guidance from PHA was insufficient and unhelpful and that the Department need to exercise control around media messaging. They felt the disparate messages from the HSC and heightened by some via the media, was increasing anxiety both amongst the workforce and the general public.
5. In addition, they were keen to see a single person in the HSC / Department act as a contact point for the Sector on PPE and sought details of Trusts "Out of Hours" contacts.