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5. There is also a risk that Scotland and Northern Ireland will not have their clauses drafted in time, meaning they risk falling out of the Bill. Scotland and Wales have also highlighted that they will need clarity on the Bill timetable in order to secure legislative consent. We are engaging our stakeholders in the Devolved Administrations regularly to keep them updated.
6. Ahead of introducing the Bill, we will be required to secure the relevant clearance from UK government departments, the Devolved Administrations, COBR and finally the Business Managers for UK Parliament. Officials across the four nations will also be required to draft supporting documents for the Bill, which will add additional time and resource pressure.
7. To support the Bill's passage through Parliament, it will also be necessary to socialise the contents of the Bill with key stakeholders. You are receiving separate advice on stakeholder engagement.
8. Taking these factors into account, we recommend that the Bill could be introduced in Parliament on 19 March. This allows the Bill 9 days in Parliament, which our Parliamentary team advise is sufficient for the passage of emergency legislation. We will keep this timetable under review.

Parliamentary handling

9. Parliamentary Business Liaison officials advise that it is important to discuss the Bill with the Business Managers (Commons and Lords Leaders, Commons and Lords Chief Whips) in order to prepare the ground for the PBL Committee meeting ahead of the Bill's introduction. It will ease the progress of that meeting and it may also be helpful as the Business Managers will be able to advise on key stakeholders to engage with across both Houses in order to smooth passage.
10. We have socialised the Bill with Business Managers at a high level, and they have questioned whether the Civil Contingencies Act could be used instead of new primary legislation. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat is exploring the flexibility of the Civil Contingencies Act, which is bound by a 'triple lock' mechanism. Their prior analysis has indicated that primary legislation will be required, and they will report back to the Business Managers.
11. Lord Bethell is engaging with the Lords Business Manager this week.
12. We will follow up with a parliamentary handling plan, to support the smooth passage of the Bill. We also recommend that you engage the Business Managers next week, once they have reviewed the paper from the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, to reassure them on the content of the Bill and the need for primary legislation.

Conclusion

13. We welcome a steer on the timetable of the Bill.
14. We advise parliamentary engagement to support the smooth passage of the Bill.

NR Reasonable Worst Case Scenario Team
Covid-19 Incident Team, **I&S**