



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Please see attached papers for the 5pm meeting, and accompanying advice (to you only) from the Cabinet Office. We're not deciding anything formally today, but the steers will inform final decisions for next week.

The advice consolidates yesterday's discussion rather than adding lots of new material. Annex A sets out what the key points of a potential announcement might look like which is a helpful way to think through the issues – though it should also refer to the wider publication document that **NR** and Tom Shinner have been working on.

We suggest you probe on a few things in the meeting:

- **Is the package taking too much risk?** You'll have noted Chris Whitty's caution yesterday that the package may be too frontloaded – you can expect Matt Hancock to row in behind this view and look to push measures (e.g. some retail) to the right. A key factor will be just how good monitoring will be in May to dial-back plans for June if required
- **There's previously been talk about running 'hot' and 'cold'** – with one approach being to suppress for longer to give test, track and trace the best chance of success. How does the planned phasing sit within that framework – will this get incidence low enough to allow TTT to work properly?
- **What actually is the new message on 'back to work' and what behavioural impact do we expect this to have?** Is it that people *can* go to work, or they *should*? There's not been much analysis yet of just how many people could come back if we adjust our messaging – and could this in itself use up much of our social distance budget? This feels like a big unknown at this stage.
- **How much emphasis do we want to place on the 'bubble' concept in the early phases?** There are lots of good social reasons to prioritise this, but it'll be less economically important than some of the other ways to use the social contact budget
- **On schools** – you should note you'll need to finalise a position with **NR** next week.

On timetable, the latest thinking is to announce on Sunday 10 May – which **NR** thinks could work from a comms perspective and gives time to process the latest ONS data next Thursday.

Imran Shafi
2 May 2020