

**MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 8 OCTOBER 2020**

**MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM**

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

**In attendance:** Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)  
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)  
Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division, TEO  
  
Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer  
Prof Ian Young, Chief Scientific Adviser  
Ms Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations, TEO

**INTRODUCTION**

The deputy First Minister chaired agenda items 1 - 4.

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**E (M) (20) 56          Minutes of Executive meeting held on 1 October 2020**

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 1 October 2020 were agreed.

7. The Executive agreed that Ministers would meet individually or in small groups with the Minister of Health, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Adviser over the coming days to consider and discuss a range of matters relating to future measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **Actions from Previous meetings**

8. The deputy First Minister advised that the Action Log had been circulated.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

#### **COVID-19 Management**

##### **E (20) 238 (C)      Face Coverings in Additional Settings**

9. The deputy First Minister introduced this paper.
10. Following discussion, the Executive approved additional settings where face coverings would be mandatory, as outlined at paragraph 4 of Executive Memorandum E (20) 238 (C), with exemptions alongside changes for hospitality already agreed; and that Regulations be amended as soon as practical.
11. Following discussion, the Minister of Health agreed to withdraw a proposal for the mandatory use of face coverings in places of worship, but advised that he wished to have further discussion of the issue at the next meeting of the Executive.

#### **Local Government Powers**

12. The deputy First Minister advised that, when restrictions in relation to hospitality had been agreed previously, including bans on live music and

dancing, the relevant paper had noted that local government was considering the benefits of additional powers to issue improvement notices. The Executive had therefore not reached a decision on the issue at that time and the issue remained open. The Department for Communities and local government had now concluded in favour of additional powers and on the understanding that the executive was content, the matter could now be closed.

**E (20) 239 (C)      Review of Offences and Penalties for Breaches of COVID Restrictions**

13. The Minister of Justice introduced this paper.

14. The Executive agreed to **option b** in Executive Memorandum E (20) 238 (C), (adopt higher level fines in line with other UK jurisdictions) and that this should apply as follows:

- the existing fixed penalty notices (FPN) which start at £60 doubling to £960 should be replaced by a fixed FPN of £200;
- the offence of not closing a business as required should be punishable on conviction by a fine of up to £10,000 or attract a FPN starting at £1,000 and 'laddered' up to a maximum of £10,000;
- a new offence should be introduced of breaching the early closing requirements for hospitality punishable on conviction by a fine of up to £10,000 or a FPN starting at £1,000 and 'laddered' up to a maximum of £10,000;
- a new offence should be introduced of not implementing measures to maintain social distancing punishable on conviction by a fine of up to £10,000 or a FPN starting at £1,000 and 'laddered' up to a maximum of £10,000; and
- penalties should remain unchanged for the existing offences of failing to self-isolate after international travel or, for travel operators, of failing to provide public health information.