1. INTRODUCTION

1. The UK Government's COVID-19 Winter Plan presents a programme for suppressing the virus, protecting the NHS and the vulnerable, keeping education and the economy going and providing a route back to normality.

2. The UK Government's overriding goal is to protect the lives and livelihoods of citizens across Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. It has worked closely with the devolved administrations on this shared goal. The Government has procured vaccines for the whole of the UK, its testing capability serves all four nations of the UK and the Government has carried out more tests than any other country in Europe. Significant quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been procured, manufactured and then distributed across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Armed Forces have been invaluable in supporting communities and health services. HM Treasury has established an unprecedented package of support for businesses and individuals across the four nations of the UK. The coordinated approach of the UK authorities has been praised by the IMF as "one of the best examples of coordinated action globally - [that] has helped mitigate the damage, holding down unemployment and insolvencies".

3. Vaccines are at the centre of the Government's plan. The global reach of the UK has put it in a strong position in the procurement of vaccines – with over 350 million doses secured by the UK Government for the benefit of all four nations.

4. Next month, the Government will be ready for a UK-wide vaccination programme to begin, provided regulators approve the vaccines. Scientific advances in vaccination and treatments should reduce the need for economic and social restrictions from the spring.

5. Until that point, the Government must rely on other tools to suppress the virus. The Government will build upon the pilots in Liverpool and Merthyr Tydfil with wider community testing, allowing us to identify and isolate people who do not have symptoms but are unintentionally spreading the virus. In addition, the Government will roll-out rapid testing nationally to NHS front-line staff, social care and other high-risk or critical settings. This strategy is backed by an additional £7 billion for NHS Test and Trace to increase testing and continue to improve contact tracing, taking the overall funding provided for Test and Trace this financial year to £22 billion.

6. This COVID-19 Winter Plan ensures the current national restrictions can be lifted on 2 December. This is only possible because everyone's efforts during the current restrictions in England have slowed the spread of the virus and eased the pressure on the NHS. On 2 December, across all of England, regardless of tier:

Figure 5 - ***Summary of measures under tiers***

	Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Meeting friends and family	Maximum of six indoors or outdoors, other than single households or support bubbles.	No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.	No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, sports courts, public gardens).
Bars, pubs and restaurants	Venues must be table service only. They must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.	Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals Last orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.	Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.

Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Retail		
Open	Open	Open
Entertainment		
Open	Open	Indoor venues closed
Personal care		
Open	Open	Open
Travelling		
Walk or cycle if possible. Avoid travel into Tier 3 areas (except where necessary, such as for work, education, medical attention, youth services or caring responsibilities).	Reduce the number of journeys made where possible Avoid travel into Tier 3 areas (except where necessary, such as work, education, medical attention, youth services or caring responsibilities).	Avoid travelling out of the area, other than where necessary such as for work, education, youth services, medical attention or because of caring responsibilities. Reduce the number of journeys made where possible.

Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Overnight stays		
Permitted, with household, support bubble, or up to 6 people.	Permitted, with household or support bubble.	No overnight stays outside of local area, unless necessary for work, education or similar reasons.
Accommodation		
Open	Open	Closed (with limited exceptions such as work purposes or where people cannot return home)
Work and business		
Everyone who can work from home should do so.		
Education		
Early years settings, schools, colleges & universities open. Registered childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.		
Places of worship		
Open, but cannot interact with more than six people.	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.

Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Weddings and funerals		
15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.
Exercise		
Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but must follow the rule of six indoors. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.

Tier 1: Medium alert	Tier 2: High alert	Tier 3: Very High alert
Indoor leisure e.g gyms and swimming		
Open	Open	Open
Large Events - Elite Sport, Live Performances & Business		
Open to the public, but limited to 50% capacity, or 4000 outdoors/1000 indoors (whichever is lower). Social contact limits apply.	Open to the public, but limited to 50% capacity, or 2000 outdoors/1000 indoors (whichever is lower). Social contact limits apply.	Events should not take place; Drive-in events permitted.