

Message

From: Orford, Rob (HSS - Primary Care & Health Science) [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7D38A628177A448789839F37A51FAF75-ORFORD, ROB]
Sent: 18/10/2020 13:33:22
To: Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d500db476dd54b1a97d62af02baea90e-Kilpatrick,]; Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ed2228a6288d494f8d8a289c904fd3c-Bennee, Fli]
Subject: RE: Covid Fire Break

Hi Reg,

Some very well made points, some of which I agree with. The other side of the firebreak needs to look different to now re: testing and isolation.

1. Would welcome sight of the CRM data on who is either isolating/not isolating (not clear on where 60-80% has come from). The percentage of people who are asymptomatic differs with studies, I think our estimate is 40% - will check. We are trying to do an analysis on how TTP is impacting on R – this is quite urgent.
2. We need people to come forward for testing, and/or have different testing approach, and/or have many more easy to use point of care tests (which we don't yet have – these are pipe dreams at the moment) we definitely need more people coming forward...something to work on!
3. We are tracking the RWC, so it is more 'the likely case' rather than the 1 in 10 scenario – SAGE/TAG are developing a new RWC.
4. Agree on financial reward – this is in progress but needs to be delivered. Understand that it was delayed due to LA requirements on issuing payments. New policy might also be too restrictive. But really needs to be online ASAP.
5. Would very much welcome sight of a detailed economic argument... I think we have been missing this.

I do hope there is a balanced discussion on the all of the potential harms, I'm keen to avoid a clash as there are no good answers – every option causes harm. Ultimately though a decision is required, we can only highlight what we are observing from a PH perspective and make recommendations based upon this.

Rob

From: Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>
Sent: 18 October 2020 13:02
To: Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) <Fliss.Bennee@gov.wales>; Orford, Rob (HSS - Primary Care & Health Science) <Rob.Orford@gov.wales>
Subject: FW: Covid Fire Break

As our expert scientific advisers, grateful for your private views of this exchange when you have a minute.

Reg Kilpatrick
Director General, Covid Crisis Coordination
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol, Cydlynu Argyfwng Covid

Welsh Government/Llywodraeth Cymru
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Irrelevant & Sensitive

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From: Morris, Huw (ESNR-Skills Higher Education & Lifelong Learning) <Huw.Morris@gov.wales>

Sent: 18 October 2020 12:55

To: Jeffreys, Andrew (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Andrew.Jeffreys@gov.wales>

Cc: Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>; Price, Jonathan (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Jonathan.Price@gov.wales>

Subject: Re: Covid Fire Break

Hi Andrew

To see below. On your earlier question about alternatives it is important to start with what is the problem we are trying to address. As I see it the problem is transmission of the virus where many who transmit are asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic or avoiding isolation requirements (between 60% and 80% don't self-isolate or quarantine). The way to tackle these issues is to have wider more regular testing of people whether symptomatic or not. This approach has been adopted by several universities. The other element of the approach needed is paying people to isolate. Independent SAGE recommend up to £400 per week. This measure could be backed by more pervasive policing of people who don't self-isolate.

Without the above measures the firebreak won't work and the lost economic activity will have been in waste.

Best wishes

Huw

Huw Morris
Director, Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning/Cyfarwyddwr, Sgiliau, Addysg Uwch a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Welsh Government/Llywodraeth Cymru
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E-mail/E-bost: huw.morris@wales.gsi.gov.uk

From: Watkins, Emma (ESNR-Business & Regions - Economic Policy) <Emma.Watkins@gov.wales>

Sent: 18 October 2020 12:07

To: Price, Jonathan (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Jonathan.Price@gov.wales>; Jeffreys, Andrew (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Andrew.Jeffreys@gov.wales>; Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy) <Thomas.Smithson@gov.wales>; Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General) <Desmond.Clifford@gov.wales>; Surman, Neil (HSS - DHP Public Health) <Neil.Surman@gov.wales>; Hughes, Dylan (OFM - Office of the Legislative Counsel) <Dylan.Hughes@gov.wales>; Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>; Bennett, Claire (EPS - Curriculum) <Claire.Bennett@gov.wales>; Edwards, Nicola (EPS - CYP&F) <Nicola.Edwards@gov.wales>; Davies, Steve (EPS -

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Cc: [REDACTED] NR (OFM - Legal Services Department) [REDACTED] NR @gov.wales> [REDACTED] NR (OFM - Legal Services Department) <[REDACTED] NR @gov.wales>; Dunning, Diane (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Diane.Dunning@gov.wales>

Subject: RE: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET DISCUSSION

I've sent separate comments on the wider economic impact considerations direct to Tom and Andrew J, however in relation to Jonathan's email we are under huge pressure from businesses (primarily in retail) to explain why we are intending to ask them to close, when they have adapted to become Covid secure. They are questioning the basis for this decision and wanting to see the evidence. Based on what's set out, as Jonathan highlights, we need to be really clear as to why we are taking that decision as we will get lots of kickback from it, particularly if one of the arguments is to prevent congregating outdoors outside shops, yet we are allowing outdoor gyms etc.

Emma

Emma Watkins
Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Polisi Economaidd
Deputy Director Economic Policy

[REDACTED]
Irrelevant & Sensitive

From: Price, Jonathan (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Jonathan.Price@gov.wales>

Sent: 18 October 2020 11:11

To: Jeffreys, Andrew (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Andrew.Jeffreys@gov.wales>; Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy) <Thomas.Smithson@gov.wales>; Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General) <Desmond.Clifford@gov.wales>; Surman, Neil (HSS - DHP Public Health) <Neil.Surman@gov.wales>; Hughes, Dylan (OFM - Office of the Legislative Counsel) <Dylan.Hughes@gov.wales>; Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>; Bennett, Claire (EPS - Curriculum) <Claire.Bennett@gov.wales>; Edwards, Nicola (EPS - CYP&F) <Nicola.Edwards@gov.wales>; Davies, Steve (EPS - Education Directorate) <Steve.Davies049@gov.wales>; Morris, Huw (ESNR-Skills Higher Education & Lifelong Learning) <Huw.Morris@gov.wales>; Thomas, Jason (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources) <Jason.Thomas@gov.wales>; Watkins, Emma (ESNR-Business & Regions - Economic Policy) <Emma.Watkins@gov.wales>; Gerard, James (OFM – Justice Transformation) <James.Gerard@gov.wales>; Brindle, Simon (OFM - European Transition) <Simon.Brindle@gov.wales>; Lintel, Helen (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Helen.Lintel@gov.wales>; Mason, Toby (OFM - Communications) <Toby.Mason@gov.wales>; Lalley, Liz (PSG - Recovery and Restart) <Liz.Lalley@gov.wales>; Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) <Fliss.Bennee@gov.wales>; Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser) <Jane.Runeckles@gov.wales>; Jenkins, Clare (OFM -

Special Adviser) <Clare.Jenkins010@gov.wales>; Buffin, Neil (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Neil.Buffin@gov.wales>; Salway, Jo (OFM - Social Partnership and Fair Work) <Jo.Salway@gov.wales>; Jones, Simon (ESNR - Economy, Skills and Natural Resources) <Simon.Jones@gov.wales>; Williams, Emma (EPS - Housing Policy) <emma.williams1@gov.wales>; Conway, Ruth (EPS - Education Directorate) <Ruth.Conway@gov.wales>

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Subject: Re: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET DISCUSSION

Tom

I agree with Andrew's comments. I may have misunderstood but I was surprised by the low impact on R from closure of non-essential retail. If this is right, and given the high economic cost and the disproportionate impact on lower paid employees, should an option excluding this element be considered?

I think it is also important to note that the major benefits associated with the firebreak (deaths averted) are based on the RWC which I understood (it may have changed) has a probability of not more than 10 per cent.

The social and economic harms are implicitly assessed on the basis of a central case, so it would also be worth including an estimate of the benefits of a firebreak under a central case to ensure a like for like comparison.

The social and economic harms, including scarring effects, could be much higher under a worse case.

Jonathan

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From: Jeffreys, Andrew (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Andrew.Jeffreys@gov.wales>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 10:44:31 AM
To: Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy) <Thomas.Smithson@gov.wales>; Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General) <Desmond.Clifford@gov.wales>; Surman, Neil (HSS - DHP Public Health) <Neil.Surman@gov.wales>; Hughes, Dylan (OFM - Office of the Legislative Counsel) <Dylan.Hughes@gov.wales>; Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>; Bennett, Claire (EPS - Curriculum) <Claire.Bennett@gov.wales>; Edwards, Nicola (EPS - CYP&F) <Nicola.Edwards@gov.wales>; Davies, Steve (EPS - Education Directorate) <Steve.Davies049@gov.wales>; Morris, Huw (ESNR-Skills Higher Education & Lifelong Learning) <Huw.Morris@gov.wales>; Thomas, Jason (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources) <Jason.Thomas@gov.wales>; Watkins, Emma (ESNR-Business & Regions - Economic Policy) <Emma.Watkins@gov.wales>; Gerard, James (OFM – Justice Transformation) <James.Gerard@gov.wales>; Brindle, Simon (OFM - European Transition) <Simon.Brindle@gov.wales>; Lintel, Helen (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Helen.Lintel@gov.wales>; Mason, Toby (OFM - Communications) <Toby.Mason@gov.wales>; Lalley, Liz (PSG - Recovery and Restart) <Liz.Lalley@gov.wales>; Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) <Fliss.Bennee@gov.wales>; Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser) <Jane.Runeckles@gov.wales>; Jenkins, Clare (OFM - Special Adviser) <Clare.Jenkins010@gov.wales>; Price, Jonathan (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Jonathan.Price@gov.wales>; Buffin, Neil (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Neil.Buffin@gov.wales>; Salway, Jo (OFM - Social Partnership and Fair Work) <Jo.Salway@gov.wales>; Jones, Simon (ESNR - Economy, Skills and Natural Resources) <Simon.Jones@gov.wales>; Williams, Emma (EPS - Housing Policy) <emma.williams1@gov.wales>; Conway, Ruth (EPS - Education Directorate) <Ruth.Conway@gov.wales>

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Subject: Re: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET DISCUSSION

Tom,

You are doing a remarkable job holding the ring on all of this.

I really don't want to complicate the job you have in finalising this advice, and I would be grateful for Jonathan's input in relation to Annex A and the covering paper, but I think we are understating the negative impacts of the firebreak, particularly on the economy and on individuals whose incomes will be reduced and long term life chances will be negatively impacted.

We are in the depths of the deepest recession in history and shutting down large chunks of the economy will exacerbate that (impact will be much greater than £100m a week - that is just an estimate of the loss of output from the businesses we close, there will also be negative impacts on the wider economy as a result of supply chain effects and reduced demand more generally). Some analysts have suggested a firebreak could reduce GDP by as much as another 5%. Hopefully we would recover some of that but some of the loss will likely be permanent.

The enhanced JSS is less generous than the JRS that was in place in April/May so individuals in sectors that are closing will suffer a bigger negative impact on their incomes (albeit for a shorter period) than previously.

Looking longer term, worsening the recession increases the negative impacts that will be experienced as a result of unemployment and a smaller economy in the future - many people's life chances will be worsened as a result, including many more premature deaths. This is likely to be concentrated on young people and on the most disadvantaged in society.

I don't think this changes the recommendation about what to do - based on the advice here Ministers don't appear to have any option other than going with some kind of strict firebreak. But I think we need to be clearer that the negative impacts are very significant and we are paying a high price for the lives we will save over the next few months.

Cheers
Andrew

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From: Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy) <Thomas.Smithson@gov.wales>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 4:50:28 AM
To: Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General) <Desmond.Clifford@gov.wales>; Surman, Neil (HSS - DHP Public Health) <Neil.Surman@gov.wales>; Hughes, Dylan (OFM - Office of the Legislative Counsel) <Dylan.Hughes@gov.wales>; Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>; Jeffreys, Andrew (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Andrew.Jeffreys@gov.wales>; Bennett, Claire (EPS - Curriculum) <Claire.Bennett@gov.wales>; Edwards, Nicola (EPS - CYP&F) <Nicola.Edwards@gov.wales>; Davies, Steve (EPS - Education Directorate) <Steve.Davies049@gov.wales>; Morris, Huw (ESNR-Skills Higher Education & Lifelong Learning) <Huw.Morris@gov.wales>; Thomas, Jason (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources) <Jason.Thomas@gov.wales>; Watkins, Emma (ESNR-Business & Regions - Economic Policy) <Emma.Watkins@gov.wales>; Gerard, James (OFM – Justice Transformation) <James.Gerard@gov.wales>; Brindle, Simon (OFM - European Transition) <Simon.Brindle@gov.wales>; Lentle, Helen (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Helen.Lentle@gov.wales>; Mason, Toby (OFM - Communications) <Toby.Mason@gov.wales>; Lalley, Liz (PSG - Recovery and Restart) <Liz.Lalley@gov.wales>; Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate) <Fliss.Bennee@gov.wales>; Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser) <Jane.Runeckles@gov.wales>; Jenkins, Clare (OFM - Special Adviser) <Clare.Jenkins010@gov.wales>; Price, Jonathan (PSG - Welsh Treasury) <Jonathan.Price@gov.wales>; Buffin, Neil (OFM - Legal Services Department) <Neil.Buffin@gov.wales>; Salway, Jo (OFM - Social Partnership and Fair Work) <Jo.Salway@gov.wales>; Jones, Simon (ESNR - Economy, Skills and Natural Resources) <Simon.Jones@gov.wales>; Williams, Emma (EPS - Housing Policy) <emma.williams1@gov.wales>; Conway, Ruth (EPS - Education Directorate) <Ruth.Conway@gov.wales>

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<Diane.Dunning@gov.wales>

Subject: RE: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET DISCUSSION

Helen and LS colleagues - Draft papers for Cabinet for you to consider in relation to supporting legal advice. I know I mentioned midday earlier, but think FM wants to see around 11am if that is still doable?

Other copy recipients – I'm happy to consider focussed tracked changes, particularly where there are mistakes and errors (of which there will be many!). Not looking for comments on Annex B as these have been discussed with FM earlier and there are a lot of different issues. Similarly, I think Annex C represents the discussions so far and views from FM and MHSS earlier, so not keen to revisit these if possible.

Tracked changes for any mistakes or errors would be helpful – in particular the main paper and Annex D which haven't had much of an airing. Will not have time to address lengthy comments. Any digestible feedback by 10:30 I should be able to consider. Will need to get it to the FM shortly after 11am so he can clear before it goes to Cabinet members around midday.

I won't be online until at least 10am so will have to turn things around very quickly – it is much easier to consider and accept tracked changes than to think about general comments....

Regards,

Tom

Thomas Smithson

NR COVID-19 - Project Team

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Irrelevant &

From: Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy) <Thomas.Smithson@gov.wales>

Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2020 1:53:56 AM

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Subject: RE: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET DISCUSSION

All,

I think I've reflected the comments coming in today and the discussions that I'm aware of. Attached is a paper summarising the issues that need to be resolved. Grateful for any clarifications or adjustments that would be needed on Saturday morning. We will need to submit to the FM by the end of the morning to inform a discussion at 2:30pm.

Grateful for any amends by around 11am.

Regards,

Tom

Thomas Smithson

NR COVID-19 - Project Team
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

From: Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy) <Thomas.Smithson@gov.wales>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 7:04:00 PM
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Subject: RE: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group - FEEDBACK FROM CABINET DISCUSSION

All,

My notes from the discussion earlier today at Cabinet on the firebreak paper that was circulated last night and discussed this morning. All members of Cabinet agreed with the principle, subject to further work being carried out to offer further reassurances that:

1. Business support arrangements are all in place
2. Clarity about what the regime will be after the firebreak and how this is communicated
3. What the two weeks will be used to do

Clearly those need to be worked through at pace and advice provided on each before a formal decision is made. The discussion focussed on what a firebreak might look like, having considered and discounted alternatives.

Areas of agreement

These are the areas I think there was agreement on, based on a shorter, sharper firebreak rather than more prolonged but more open version:

- 2 week firebreak to run from evening of Friday 23 October until Monday 9 November (i.e. 3 weekends)
- Stay at home message
- Broad business closures to be listed in regulations to allow them to access support, including non-essential retail and hospitality (unless providing take-away or delivery)
- Childcare and primary schools to remain open
- HE to continue face-to-face teaching and blended learning to retain students in the area
- Adults living alone or single parents living only with their children will be able to join with one other household for support – no other household mixing is allowed
- Encourage parks to stay open for outdoor exercise

Areas not discussed

A couple of areas in the papers but not specifically discussed:

- Assumption that informal childcare will continue to be permitted
- Assumption that public services and related support services should continue
- What activities to allow in community centres and places of worship
- List of reasonable excuses

Further work and advice needed

These are the areas that discussion highlighted further work and advice is needed on:

- Secondary schools – options and a preferred approach needed for schools and exams during week 2 of the firebreak. Teachers should be working but questions about what pupils might attend and how exams can be managed (resits can potentially be delayed, but others like medical/vet or Oxbridge entry cannot)
- Outdoor activities – whether to prevent / limit gatherings outdoors from the 30 limit and whether to allow any organised activity (Halloween, Guy Fawkes night, Remembrance Sunday all in this period).
- Local government discussions needed on approach to amenities (e.g. by appointment only) and whether playgrounds are kept open
- Decision needed on approach to transport capacity

New issues

While not discussed, the stay at home steer means there are new issues to consider (will be many others and Liz is picking some of these up):

- We did not close a number of sectors in the first lockdown – do we adopt a similar approach? This includes manufacturing, construction, offices, and others.

- Assume we want to ensure hotels can open under direction for certain guests (e.g. homeless or where essential for key workers or such as construction or healthcare workers)?
- Assume people working in England would have a reasonable excuse to travel if their employers required it

Regards,

Tom

Thomas Smithson

[REDACTED] - COVID-19 - Project Team
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Irrelevant & Sensitive

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director) <Reg.Kilpatrick@gov.wales>

Sent: 15 October 2020 16:13

To: Kilpatrick, Reg (EPS - LG Director); Jeffreys, Andrew (PSG - Welsh Treasury); Bennett, Claire (EPS - Curriculum); Edwards, Nicola (EPS - CYP&F); Davies, Steve (EPS - Education Directorate); Morris, Huw (ESNR-Skills Higher Education & Lifelong Learning); Thomas, Jason (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources); Watkins, Emma (ESNR-Business & Regions - Economic Policy); Gerard, James (OFM – Justice Transformation); Brindle, Simon (OFM - European Transition); Lentle, Helen (OFM - Legal Services Department); Hughes, Dylan (OFM - Office of the Legislative Counsel); Mason, Toby (OFM - Communications); Lalley, Liz (PSG - Recovery and Restart); Surman, Neil (HSS - DHP Public Health); Bennee, Fliss (HSS-Technology, Digital & Transformation Directorate); Runeckles, Jane (OFM - Special Adviser); Clifford, Desmond (OFM - Director General); Jenkins, Clare (OFM - Special Adviser); Smithson, Thomas (OFM - Trade Policy); Price, Jonathan (PSG - Welsh Treasury); Buffin, Neil (OFM - Legal Services Department); Salway, Jo (OFM - Social Partnership and Fair Work); Jones, Simon (ESNR - Economy, Skills and Natural Resources); Williams, Emma (EPS - Housing Policy); Conway, Ruth (EPS - Education Directorate)

Subject: Covid Fire Break - Implementation Group

When: 16 October 2020 08:45-09:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

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