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Convener
COVID-19 Committee

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Dear Murdo

COVID-19: SCOTLAND'S ROUTE MAP THROUGH AND OUT OF THE CRISIS – MOVE TO PHASE 3 UPDATE AND CONFIRMATION OF EXTENSION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

I am writing to inform you that the Scottish Government has concluded the review of the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 and guidance which underpin the current lockdown. We have concluded that the regulations remain necessary but we have seen sufficient progress in suppressing the virus to enable us to begin a staged implementation of Phase 3 of our *COVID-19: Framework for Decision Making – route map through and out of the crisis*.¹

The First Minister has today set out the rationale for a staged implementation of Phase 3 in a statement to Parliament.

In Phase 3 some important restrictions will remain in place to help to keep us safe, protect others and save lives. An updated Route Map² table setting out the changes that will take place, has been published on the Scottish Government website along with a separate Route Map for shielding people³. We will also publish an assessment of the evidence on the criteria for progressing to Phase 3 tomorrow, 10 July 2020.

Amending regulations are required to ensure that the requirements and restrictions in place reflect our current stage in the control of coronavirus. The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 7) Regulations 2020 have been made and laid before the Scottish Parliament today, 9 July 2020.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis/>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis-phase-3-update/>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-shielding/>

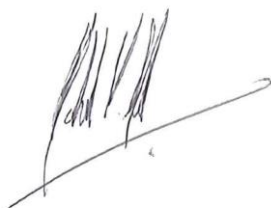
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Regulations will come into force from tomorrow, Friday 10 July, with the remainder coming into force on Monday 13 July 2020.

The amending regulations make adjustments to the principal regulations where the decision to move to Phase 3 of Scotland's Route Map, requires legislative change. The Scottish Government's guidance has been updated to reflect these changes and to make other changes for the purpose of implementing proposals in the route map. The revised guidance is available at www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance.

In accordance with the requirements of the regulations we will review them again within 21 days and will inform Parliament of the outcome of that review. As the First Minister has indicated, if there are any changed circumstances that would permit earlier action we will of course notify the committee at the earliest possible moment.

This letter has been copied to the Conveners of the Health and Sport and Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committees.



MICHAEL RUSSELL

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