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Donald Cameron MSP
Convener
COVID-19 Committee

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16 October 2020

Dear Donald,

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PANDEMIC IN SCOTLAND

I am writing to you in relation to the Scottish Government's review of coronavirus restrictions and requirements.

On the 22 September, the First Minister announced that several restrictions would be introduced and existing rules and measures strengthened to reduce transmission of the virus, including the restriction on in-home socialising. Regulations relating to these measures were made on 24 September with a commitment to review them again by three weeks after that date, the 15 October.

On 1 October, the First Minister confirmed that the Phase 3 Route Map changes that had previously been given an indicative date of 5 October, which was conditional on continued progress in suppressing the epidemic, would not proceed on that date. These Route Map restrictions have also been reviewed.

On 7 October the First Minister announced that further, temporary restrictions would be introduced on a nationwide basis with other specific measures being introduced across the Central Belt. The temporary measures are planned to last until Sunday 25 October inclusive (the regulations expire at 6 am on 26 October). These measures are required to be reviewed within seven days: they have now been reviewed in light of the latest information on the epidemic. A residual restriction on visiting care homes and hospitals in the West of Scotland has also been reviewed.

The full outcome of the review is in the attached Annex (and on the gov.scot website). We will continue to keep the various restrictions in place under review and will keep the Scottish Parliament updated.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



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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