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Murdo Fraser MSP
Convener
COVID-19 Committee

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18 June 2020

Dear Murdo

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 2 of our *COVID-19: Framework for Decision Making – route map through and out of the crisis*.¹

On the 21 May we published a route map setting out how and when we might ease our lockdown restrictions. At the last review on 28 May we concluded, in light of the evidence and analysis, that we could progress to Phase 1. To progress from Phase 1 to Phase 2, we would need to have seen the R number consistently below 1 and the number of infectious cases showing a sustained decline. The WHO six criteria for easing restrictions must also be met, which are set out on page 18 of the route map.

The First Minister has today set out the rationale for a staged implementation of Phase 2 in a statement to Parliament.

An updated route map, showing the staged implementation of Phase 2, has been published on the Scottish Government website. We will also publish an assessment of the evidence on the criteria for progressing to Phase 2 in the coming days.

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. 4) Regulations 2020 have been made and laid before the Scottish Parliament today, 18 June. Some of the Regulations will come into force

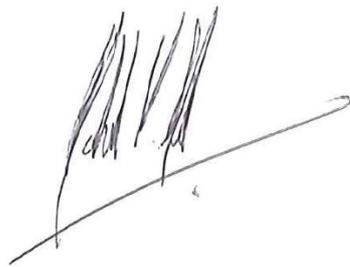
¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis/>

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tomorrow and others will come into force on Monday 22 June. The amending regulations make adjustments to the principal regulations where the decision to move to Phase 2 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Russell', written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL RUSSELL

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