

Coronavirus – First Minister's letter to the Prime Minister suggests four nation talks

Given the comments over devolved powers in recent days in relation to COBR meetings and also the lack of powers to continued furlough schemes, it is not that the First Minister has tonight written to the Prime Minister making suggestions about a way forward.

The First Minister proposed that four nation talks would consider three inter-related questions:

- Based on the most recent data, what further actions might be necessary and is it possible to reach early four nations agreement on introducing them?
- Given that further restrictions will inevitably have an economic impact, what support is required for affected sectors?
- If it is not possible to reach a four nations agreement on further restrictions with associated support, what arrangements can be put in place to ensure that devolved administrations are not constrained in making what they judge to be essential public health decisions because they lack the financial flexibility to provide support

to affected sectors or individuals?



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