

We have always been clear that we will be transparent with you and tell you what we are thinking – and also that this is a constantly evolving picture.

The Civil Contingencies Authority is currently scheduled to meet every two weeks. At our meeting 2 weeks ago, the Authority agreed at **that time** not to extend the day 7 test pilot but instead to focus resources on developing options for travel without a requirement to self-isolate. And we told you this at our last media briefing.

Since then, we have picked up increased anxiety at the 14 day self-isolation requirement – not from the business community, who have welcomed the business tunnel concept - but rather from the rest of the community with families having been separated for so long.

So at our meeting yesterday, the CCA asked staff to examine whether and when we might have the resources to safely resume the 7 day test regime; we noted that if this did take effect, it could impact the introduction of unquarantined travel. Paul will explain some of the issues involved.

I must stress, that **no** decisions have been taken yet; no decisions have been taken yet – and we may yet change our thinking again as we receive new information – including for example today's reported increase in Covid-infection rates in the UK that Nikki is going to explain. For those looking to make travel bookings, I must emphasise that when I say 'no decisions have been made' that includes in relation to 1st September as a date for unquarantined travel.

The flexibility of our response has been the story of our move through the Phases of the Exit Strategy from the beginning so it should be no surprise that this remains the case now. Up to now, we've been fortunate that all changes have been accelerations through the phases but we cannot presume that will continue to be the case.

We do not anticipate making any decision on this within the next 7 days – we need to allow time for the work to be undertaken properly so the Authority can make fully informed decisions. I know how frustrating the absence of any decision is for those looking to plan ahead and make travel arrangements – including the travel operators of course. But I will make the same commitment I've made a number of times before – we will let you know just as soon as we know. Please bear with us. Please be patient. We will continue to keep you informed.

Please also remember what a strong position we are in. We do not want to backwards. We have completely unrestricted social, business, sporting and community life in the Bailiwick – and the confidence that gives to the whole community, especially vulnerable groups is enormous which is hugely important to the economy.

We had all our schools open at the end of last term. We don't have to have face masks to go into shops. Our position is not the same with the jurisdictions around us. So we shouldn't cherry pick the things we like about others and conveniently ignore the things we don't like.

We are delighted with the success of the air bridge to the Isle of Man with so many extra seats being needed – and we welcome the first 97 visitors from the Isle of Man who arrived this week.

I've no further news on any other air bridges at this point.

The charter business tunnels have been available from this week too – and there has been some interest in their use; the scheduled service with Aurigny will begin next week. We will be closely and regularly monitoring the use of business tunnels – as the CCA does with all limited exceptions to the quarantine rules, to ensure that they are being used for the right reasons. There have been 8 applications to use business tunnels.

The Head of Law Enforcement will talk in a moment about enforcement actions. All I need to say is 'thank you' to both the public and the law enforcement authorities for helping to ensure our rules are properly adhered to – helping to ensure as it does, that our community can continue to operate without restrictions within the Bailiwick bubble which is so important to our community and our economy.