

## MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

It is the business area's responsibility for keeping an HPRM record of the final agreed note.



Department of  
**Justice**

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

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☐ PRE-BRIEF

☒ MEETING

|                                                                                                                                |                                                    |                                                                                                   |                                                            |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>TIME AND DATE OF MEETING:</b>                                                                                               |                                                    | Meeting – 5 August 2024 @1pm                                                                      |                                                            |            |
| <b>TITLE/ORGANISATION:</b><br>(Include INV number where possible and ensure title on pre-brief and meeting notes are the same) |                                                    | Minister's meeting with Minister McEntee re: the violence and disorder on Saturday 3 August 2024. |                                                            |            |
| <b>VENUE:</b>                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> e.g. Parliament Buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> e.g. Castle Buildings                                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify | Phone call |
| <b>LIST OF ATTENDEES:</b>                                                                                                      |                                                    |                                                                                                   |                                                            |            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> SpAd                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS XX<br>Redacted<br>Section 40<br>(2)XX                      |                                                            |            |
| <b>OFFICIALS:</b>                                                                                                              |                                                    |                                                                                                   |                                                            |            |
| <b>OTHERS:</b><br>[Include Pdf Copies of any Presentations Delivered]                                                          | Helen McEntee TD, Justice Minister                 |                                                                                                   |                                                            |            |

## **MEETING KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:**

### **Minister**

- Referred to the violence over the weekend which had left many people feeling frightened and shaken.
- Advised that a number of businesses have been badly damaged and that some had been attacked when the business owners were on the premises.
- Commented on the suggestion that there will be additional protests again this weekend.
- Stated that she is hoping to speak to the SofS later today and will be making the case that additional resources available for policing and courts in E+W should also be available here.
- Referred to the protestors efforts to target the Islamic centre in Belfast – police had a heavy cordon around this which was largely successful but once the crowds dispersed and re-grouped in different locations then the resulting pop-up riots were hard to police.
- Expressed her concern at the degree to which there was a cross border dimension to the co-ordination of attacks.
- Asked if there was any collective action they could take which would be helpful to both of them and assist in identifying the ringleaders.

### **Minister McEntee**

- Confirmed that she had spoken to the Garda Commissioner and noted that AGS and the PSNI were already working collaboratively XX Redacted Section 24 XX.

### **Minister**

- Referred to her media interviews and her strong message that people thinking of coming across the border should think twice – they will not be allowed to act with impunity.
- Stressed her desire that this violence does not gather momentum – noted that it is being driven by social media and is fuelled by extremism.
- Added that the flowing of Islamophobia is being driven by mis-information - things in NI are bad enough at this time of year without this being layered on top.
- Commented that in E+W they have additional police forces to draw resource from but in NI we do not have the facility of ready access to additional resource.

### **Minister McEntee**

- Commented that events in Rofl appear to be loosely organised but that others are coming on board with indications that the organisation of violence is becoming more planned and co-ordinated.

XXXXXXXXXXXX REDACTED Section 24 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**ISSUES AGREED (must be completed):**

- Minister and Minister McEntee agreed on the importance of strong messaging regarding collaboration between the PSNI and AGS.
- It was agreed that social media allows people to co-ordinate activity in a way that they may not have before.
- Both Ministers agreed to keep in close contact and to speak again as necessary.

**ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:**

- N/A

**NOTE WRITTEN BY:** XX Redacted Section 40  
(2)XX

**DATE:** 5 August 2024

**Signed and Dated by Private Secretary:**

XX Redacted Section 40 (2)XX

**5 August 2024**