# Executive Daily Update: Initiatives to deal with Coronavirus (13 May 2020)

Northern Ireland Executive ministers and their officials have over the past 24 hours been involved in a number of initiatives and critical decisions relating to the Coronavirus emergency.

# Minister suspends recovery of benefit overpayments and loans

Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey has said that her Department will be pausing the recovery of benefit overpayments and loan repayments from a number of Social Security benefits for three months, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## <u>Departmental update on Covid-19</u> <u>critical care surge plan</u>

As part of the preparations for the first wave, our priority was to ensure that the health and care system had sufficient capacity to deal with the rising numbers of Covid-19 patients.

### <u>Minister underlines extensive</u> <u>programme to support care homes</u>

Health Minister Robin Swann today spelt out a wide range of measures being deployed in Northern Ireland to protect care home residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### 2020/2021 Agricultural Pay Rates

The Agricultural Wages Board for Northern Ireland (AWB) has confirmed changes to pay for agricultural workers. At a meeting of the AWB on Friday 13 March 2020, the Board agreed the rates to become effective from 1 April 2020. The rates are: