

**TO: Business & Operational Continuity Committee**  
**Cc'd: COVID 19 Exit Strategy Group**

Dear member,

Following the announcement of a return to a tiering system after the end of national lockdown on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, the Health Secretary has today confirmed which areas will fall into which tier of restrictions. MPs will have the chance to debate and vote on these measures on Tuesday. The regulations are likely to pass, given that Labour will support them, but the extent and complexion of the Conservative opposition will demonstrate whether this is a genuine challenge to the PM's approach, or frustration from a few MPs whose constituencies have been placed in higher tiers than they would have liked.

The key points to note are outlined as follows:

- **All London boroughs are in Tier 2.** There had been some calls from Conservative London MPs to determine tiers by borough but this has clearly been resisted, likely because of the political risk of London being singled out for special treatment, and the economic reality that individuals in London tend to travel between individual boroughs
- **Liverpool's move to tier 2 will be cited as proof that the combination of the highest tier restrictions and mass testing works.** During the period of national lockdown Liverpool has seen a dramatic fall in case rates from c.700 per 100,000 to 100-200 per 100,000 and as a consequence will be moved into Tier 2. This is being attributed to the city piloting mass-testing and accepting 'Tier 3' restrictions. The implications of this are already taken forward in the plan announced on Monday, which set out that Tier 3 areas will get mass community testing using Lateral Rapid Flow Tests.
- **Although the majority of Northern and Midlands areas remain in Tier 3, a number of Southern and Eastern areas will also move into higher tiers and it is this that will create a bigger political problem for Boris Johnson.** While it remains the case that the highest tier applies predominantly in the North and the Midlands, almost all areas face greater restrictions and Johnson is likely to face staunch opposition from MPs in historically Conservative areas like Kent that have moved from tier 1 to tier 3 during the intervening period of national lockdown.
- **Though there will be no specific economic measures (beyond what was announced to accompany national lockdown), councils in tier 2 and tier 3 will receive additional funding per capita.** Local authorities in tier 3 will get £4 per head, while councils in Tier 2 will get £2. This upfront payment reflects the fact that there will not be negotiations between local authorities and the government over financial support this time.
- **The specific tiers that apply to each area will be reviewed on 16<sup>th</sup> December, with decisions made based on areas' performances against a set of criteria announced today.** In response to accusations of a lack of transparency, the government has announced the criteria by which tiering decisions are determined, albeit without citing what

the thresholds are for each dataset, or which factors are prioritised: case detection rates in all age groups; case detection rates in the over 60s; the rate at which cases are rising or falling; positivity rate (the number of positive cases detected as a % of tests taken); and pressure on the NHS. MPs are still likely to highlight the uncertainty caused to business and individuals over the period, while the government has argued that this actually allows for areas which make progress in slowing the spread to be moved down by Christmas. Regional data will be published every Thursday.

### Current restrictions by tier

In all tiers, the ban on outbound international travel will be lifted; non-essential retail, gyms, personal care, places of worship will open; and schools will remain open as standard.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
<p><b>Free assembly:</b> Maximum of 6 people gathering indoors or outdoors.</p> <p><b>Workplaces:</b> As set out in guidance, everyone who can work from home should.</p> <p><b>Leisure, entertainment and hospitality venues:</b> open, except for those closed by law e.g. nightclubs. A 11pm curfew is in operation for hospitality with last orders at 10pm.</p> <p><b>Travel:</b> Avoid travelling into a tier 3 areas (other than where necessary for work or education), overnight stays permissible with up to 6 people.</p>	<p><b>Free assembly:</b> No mixing of households, maximum of 6 people gathering outdoors in a public place or private garden.</p> <p><b>Workplaces:</b> As set out in guidance, everyone who can work from home should.</p> <p><b>Leisure, entertainment and hospitality venues:</b> Pubs and bars that cannot operate as restaurants must close and in all hospitality venues, alcoholic drinks can only be served with a substantial meal.</p> <p><b>Travel:</b> Avoid travelling into a tier 3 areas (other than where necessary for work or education), overnight stays only permissible with your household and/or support bubbles.</p>	<p><b>Free assembly:</b> No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places (e.g. private gardens). Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p> <p><b>Workplaces:</b> As set out in guidance, everyone who can work from home should.</p> <p><b>Leisure, entertainment and hospitality venues:</b> Hospitality venues and accommodation are closed but gyms, personal care facilities and non-essential retail remain open.</p> <p><b>Travel:</b> Avoid travelling outside your area.</p>

Any questions please let me know

Thank you,