

NOTICE 2

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (the '2012 Regulations')

To David Andrews, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This is formal notice pursuant to Regulation 10 (3) of the 2012 Regulations setting out the reasons why compliance with regulation 9 is impracticable with regard to reaching decision(s) on the matter identified in Notice 1.

Reasons

The decision relates to the Winter Service Operational Plan (WSOP). The reason this was not included on the Forward Plan was because it has never been necessary to vary the WSOP during the season. This year, however, the Government have written to Local Authorities requesting that they grit the Covid test centres, both drive in and walk in. It was not possible to vary the current WSOP, as it had already been through Cabinet and was part of a key decision.

In view of the urgent and safety related matter of gritting, an emergency paper is being drafted for this to be incorporated into the WSOP, allowing it to be varied on a needs basis. Accordingly, there is insufficient time to include this decision in the next Forward Plan and wait the 28 days required by regulation 9 before making the decision, as this would put Hertfordshire at significant risk of legal challenge for failing to follow Government request.

QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER
5 NOVEMBER 2020

cc: Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Opposition Spokesmen
Group Leaders

