



AQW 10799/17-22

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Tabled Date: 23/11/2020
Answered On Date: 19/01/2021
Priority Written: No

Question:

To ask the Minister for the Economy for her assessment on what impact a zero COVID-19 strategy would have on the economy in Northern Ireland.

Answer:

A zero COVID-19 society is the optimum outcome that the Executive has been actively pursuing since the outbreak of Coronavirus in Northern Ireland in February 2020. The Executive have supported the Department of Health in the production of the original and subsequent amendments to The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, and now through the NI COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, there is genuine hope that this can be achieved. However, it will require a continuous and collective effort, right across our entire society, including of course, from Executive Ministers and other political and civic leaders to deliver this outcome. In the meantime, Departmental Economists are continuously analysing the impact of Coronavirus on business sectors, the labour market and the NI economy in general. It is not possible at this time, to provide an accurate assessment of the impact that a zero COVID-19 strategy would have on the economy in Northern Ireland.