# Northern Ireland Revealed to Lack Isolation Facilities Amid Covid-19 Pandemic, Documents Show



At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Northern Ireland lacked specific facilities designated for isolation, as detailed in documents made public by the UK Covid-19 Inquiry. These revelations came from a briefing document titled "Minutes of the CCG (clinical commissioning groups) Meeting," which was published following health minister Robin Swann’s appearance at the inquiry in Belfast. The meeting, held on February 20, 2020, discussed topics such as isolation facilities, legislative issues, and preparation for managing excess deaths. The document highlighted concerns from the Department for the Economy regarding insufficient legal powers for closing higher education institutions, in contrast to primary and secondary schools, which could be shut down by the Department of Education. Additionally, there was a focus on reviewing business continuity plans in preparation for worst-case scenarios concerning the pandemic.