

## **Minister Swann's speaking notes – Press Conference Wednesday 3 February 2021**

Today I repeat the central message that we have heard so many times over the last year. Never ever underestimate Covid-19 and the damage it can do.

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### **Executive condemns threats against workers**

Regardless of our very different views on the NI Protocol, the Executive is united in condemning any threats made against workers and staff going about their duties at Belfast and Larne ports.

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### **Mallon announces tougher driving penalties for mobile phone use to come into force**

Legislation brought forward by Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon to increase penalty points and fines for those using a hand-held mobile phone while driving comes into effect tomorrow (3 February 2021) for all motorists in Northern Ireland.

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### **Minister announces £3m fund to help retail micro-businesses move online**

Economy Minister Diane Dodds has announced a new £3m scheme to help micro-business retailers develop their sales online. The scheme will open to

applications tonight.

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## **'It's vital we support our children's mental health'**

Chief Medical Officer Dr Michael McBride, Chief Social Worker Sean Holland and the Interim Mental Health Champion Professor Siobhan O'Neill have said that it's vital that children and young people are supported with their mental health and wellbeing.