



11th May 2021

Mr Stephen Donnelly TD
Minister for Health
Department of Health
Block 1, Miesian Plaza
50-58 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Dear Minister

I refer to previous letters to you in my capacity as Chief Medical Officer providing advice, as referred to in Section 38E of the Health Act 1947, in relation to the designation of states for the purpose of mandatory quarantine and the revocation of such designations; including letters setting out the approach and criteria advised by the Expert Advisory Group on Travel (EAGT), including the technical advisory sub-group, which provides analysis, data and recommendations to me, to assist me in consideration of the issues involved and provision of advice as foreseen under Section 38E of the Act.

As you will recall, the most recent recommendations of the EAGT and my advice in relation to same were set out in a letter to you dated 7th May 2021. I note that, following consideration of this advice and consultation with Government colleagues as required under the Act, you announced an intention to designate, as and from 12th May, certain of the states recommended by the EAGT and by me, namely **Anguilla and Nepal**.

I am writing to you now in the context of your regular review of the situation in states designated under Section 38E and in order to ensure that you have access to the most up-to-date data and analysis prior to designation of these additional states.

In line with the EAGT agreed process, which considers ECDC, WHO, OurWorldInData (OWID) and European Commission guidance, VOC data is reviewed on a fortnightly basis, with this interval regarded appropriate from an epidemiological/public health perspective, reflecting the more sustained nature of VOC threat and slower pace of change of VOC data as compared to incidence data. For that reason, this letter solely considers a review of states which are intended to be designated on the basis of incidence, while noting that the position of countries designated based on VOC is being kept under review.

Variants of concern

The country of **Nepal** which you announced you intend to designate on 12th May was recommended for designation in my letter of 7th May on the basis of variants of concern (VOC).

Very high incidence and high incidence

The additional state which it is understood you now intend to designate on 12th May – Anguilla – was among the states recommended for designation in my letter of 7th May on the basis of high incidence (defined as a 14-day incidence less than 500 per 100,000 and greater than 2.5 times Ireland's 14-day incidence) of COVID-19. The recommendations based on 14-day incidence contained in 7th May letter reflect ECDC incidence data from 6th May 2021, which is updated weekly. Bearing this in mind and in advance of your designation, I have reviewed the most recent available data, reflecting OWID 14-day incidence data from 11th May 2021 and, on the basis of this review, **I am no longer recommending the designation of Anguilla.**

This information and advice (additional to the data, information and recommendations provided to you in my previous letters) is provided to you in keeping with the requirements of the Health Act 1947, to inform your ongoing review of the situation in states designated under Section 38E of the Health Act 1947; and to ensure that your decision to designate additional states under that section continues to be informed by the best available and most recent data and analysis.

Yours sincerely



Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer