KEEPING LISMORE SAFE

LISMORE EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP STATEMENT

At this difficult time, we all must focus on keeping ourselves and our community safe.

However, we understand that some aspects of living here must continue – for example, farming activities - and that many farms will rely on their usual helpers arriving for the lambing period. But we do urge any lambers who have yet to arrive to think first “am I crucial to the lambing effort/am I really an ‘essential’ worker?” if your contribution really is essential then please organise to self -isolate when you arrive and to practise social distancing for the entire period of your stay. On arrival, please follow our guidance on decontamination and sanitisation procedures very rigorously. If your farming family has someone in the highly at risk category then don’t come, don’t put their lives in danger.

If you are a 2nd home owner or family member who has demonstrated your love of Lismore and appreciation of our vulnerable island community by staying away and remaining in your main residence –

 **THANK YOU!**

We really appreciate the action that you have taken to protect our community. By staying at home and staying safe, you have avoided unnecessary additional pressure on our fragile health services, infrastructure and supplies.

The Government instruction, now backed by Regulations that are being enforced, is that ONLY ESSENTIAL TRAVEL should be undertaken. The lockdown was intended to ensure that people remained where they were living.

In order to assist Lismore Emergency Response Group's Safety and Medical Support teams, a database of addresses and households has been compiled, based on the existing telephone list. From ad hoc knowledge, it was thought that on 8th April there was a total of 198 people on the island. This comprises 140 adults and 24 children who are permanent residents (total 164 people) with 25 adults and 9 children who are non-resident (total 34 people).

Our estimates are that 'non-resident' arrivals since mid-March include a mix of additional family members; second homeowners and their families; visitors and lambing support (some of whom are themselves second homeowners and family relatives). The only 'visitors' outwith these descriptions departed before the lockdown, as far as we are aware.

All households have been provided with the best information available to combat cross infection and good hygiene procedures. But it is up to individuals to behave responsibly, to protect the whole community.

The larger the population, the more difficult our task is in keeping everyone safe.

The strain on emergency support, primarily the NHS, is vastly increased with more people on the island compared to our normal resident population. The threats should not be underestimated: limits on the number of ventilators in Oban, for example, mean that capacity is already stretched. And transport to Glasgow or other centres as an alternative may be difficult due to shortage of ambulances.

We do need every person on the island to follow the existing guidance closely, to try to achieve a virus-free island and should infection occur, to do our best to limit its spread and care for the vulnerable.

By REMAINING POSITIVE we can tackle the challenges and survive these unusual times but we all need to work together and to care for the community.