



Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/01367/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru

10 August 2020

Dear Chair

I am writing in response to your letter dated 16 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding lockdown measures. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances currently being experienced by both businesses and individuals at this difficult time and we are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance needed.

Our £1.7 billion business support package - which is equivalent to 2.6% of our GVA - complements other Welsh Government funding packages as well as UK Government schemes and means that companies in Wales have access to the most generous offer of help anywhere in the UK.

Our Wales only Economic Resilient Fund has so far awarded 11,400 grants to businesses, totalling £186.6m

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 were designed to protect people from the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The UK's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and the Welsh Government's Technical Advisory Cell (TAC) has advised that every change made to relax the lockdown measures – via the coronavirus regulations – has a cumulative effect. We are therefore taking a step-by-step approach towards unlocking these measures; closely monitoring the impact of each change; learning from the changes we make and moving forward carefully. We are moving into the green phase in our traffic light system and as we do, guidance is increasingly important in setting out all the measures and steps we need to take to protect us from coronavirus.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

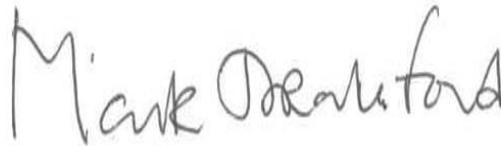
It is vitally important we all follow these new ways of working and behaving and that people and businesses comply with the guidance to help reduce the spread of the virus and to protect people, ensuring we can go on lifting restrictions in the future.

The scientific and medical advice shows that, overall, levels of coronavirus transmission in Wales are now low.

In the last three-week review cycle, we made a number of changes to open up our leisure, retail, tourism and hospitality sectors. After monitoring the impact of these changes and reviewing the wider evidence and indicators about the transmission of the virus in Wales and around the world, we concluded there is headroom to make some further changes over the coming three-week cycle. I refer you to my Written Statement of 31 July:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-review-health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-no-2-wales-regulations-2020>

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**