

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1034
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02480/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

5 October 2020

Dear Janet,

The Welsh Government understands the frustration in the culture sector, but we need to ensure organisations and individuals can return to activities in a safe manner.

Earlier in the summer, the Welsh Government published guidance for a phased return for culture and heritage venues and destinations. As part of that work, we asked the Arts Council of Wales to work with our cultural sectors to develop additional guidance covering rehearsal, performance and participation. That work is now complete and the guidance has been published.

However, we are not yet at the stage where we can reopen venues such as concert halls or theatres, due to the risks this poses, and the difficulties of managing the crowds, and recording who has attended. A stakeholder group consisting of organisations from the world of sport, arts and other events have been brought together, and will continue to advise on how we can safely and cautiously bring back these types of activities – but only when it is safe to do so. We are not yet able to put a date to this, however we continue to monitor the science and trends. The virus has not yet gone away, and we must continue to take the appropriate precautions to keep Wales safe.

Yours sincerely,

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
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Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

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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.