

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-05-1028
Ein cyf/Our ref DET-03038-20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

16 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence of 28 October on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-05-1028: and the recommencement of Motorsport events in Wales. I note the comments enclosed from the original petitioner.

In response, and further to my previous correspondence on this matter of 23 September, a Motorsport Test Event was held at Trac Môn/Anglesey Circuit. This was undertaken in the expectation that the lessons learned from this, and a wider series of Test Events, would help us plan for the eventual safe return of such events to Wales. Unfortunately, due to the current public health position, the next phase of Test Events has had to be put on hold – this is also the case across the UK. We do not expect test events to resume until February 2021 but we will keep this under review.

The situation in relation to hosting sporting events such as rallying in Wales has not altered significantly since our last exchange. However, I can confirm that my officials maintain regular dialogue with UK Motorsport on the issues facing the sector. In addition, 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 spectators to events – 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.

I note the statements the Petitioner makes in terms of additional safety measures that rallying has introduced in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and we will continue to work with the industry to consider how best we might develop a phased re-opening approach taking account of the public health position. In respect of the comments regarding live-streaming of Wrexham AFC matches at 'The Turf' pub – this would be subject to the rules in licenced venues and observance to social distancing as enforced by the Local Authority and my officials will raise this separately with Wrexham County Borough Council.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Ken.Skates@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Ken.Skates@gov.wales

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.

Following the end of the Firebreak in Wales on 9 November, a number of new regulations come into force and FAQ guidance is available at: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance#section-46351>. In respect of the rules around events however, these have not changed and a maximum of 30 people outdoors or 15 people indoors can gather, if this is part of an organised activity managed for example by a gym, a leisure centre or a sports club. Children aged under 11 and those organising the activity (such as coaches) are not included in these numbers, but the organisers will need to take **all reasonable measures to reduce the risk of spreading the virus**.

I hope this goes some way to reassuring the Petitioner as to the level of appreciation within the group of the difficulties currently facing their particular sector. I appreciate that this is an extremely difficult time for all members of the event sector, including motorsports. But the virus has not gone away and we must continue to adhere to measures that are designed to help us keep Wales safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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