



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1154
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/01959/21

Clerk
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament

Petitions@Senedd.Wales

13 April 2021

Dear Clerk

I refer to the letter of 29 March from the Chair of the now paused Committee regarding a petition from Lyndsey Groundwell Petition P-05-1154 Re-open the Welsh hospitality sector by 12 April.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances currently being experienced by businesses and individuals. We are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs.

As you will be aware, the Welsh Government updated its Coronavirus Control Plan on 19 March, setting out how and when more people and businesses will be able to resume their activities in the safest possible way.

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-control-plan-revised-alert-levels-wales-march-2021>

The plan supports the Welsh Government to continue to relax restrictions while the public health situation continues to remain positive – rates have fallen significantly across Wales thanks to all the hard work and sacrifices made by people during the winter months. It sets out a range of indicators the Welsh Government will analyse and assess, alongside professional expert advice and intelligence from local partners, to determine how restrictions are relaxed.

We will carefully review the regulations and we will continue our careful, step-by-step approach, lifting restrictions week by week, if the public health situation continues to remain favourable.

We have brought together a Tourism and Hospitality Stakeholder group which meets regularly and is co-chaired by the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language and also the Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport.

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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.

The Group includes representatives from the British Beer and Pubs Association, UK Hospitality Cymru and the Welsh Independent Restaurant Consortium so we are hearing direct from the sector across Wales.

Details of the latest relaxations to the regulations (including for the tourism, hospitality and leisure sector), subject to the public health situation remaining favourable, can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-restriction-relaxations-wales-brought-forward>

In the meantime, our generous package of financial support for Welsh businesses will continue throughout April and into May. Many businesses will already have received their full share of the £180m funding announced in mid-March upfront to see them through until May, for others, including in the hospitality and tourism sector, cash grants will continue to be paid during April as applications are confirmed.

A pub, hotel or restaurant in Wales with ten staff would have been entitled to £45,000 in Welsh Government support to see them through from December onwards. This is on top of both our business rates relief scheme and UK Government support to cover staff costs.

A pub, hotel or restaurant with four staff would have been entitled to £27,000 in Welsh Government support to see them through from December onwards. This is on top of both our business rates relief scheme and UK Government support to cover staff costs.

The Welsh Government will also be providing over £610m in non-domestic rates relief in 2021-22. All retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value of £500,000 or below will receive 100% non-domestic rates relief in 2021-22. This means that, in total, over 70,000 Welsh businesses will pay no rates at all for the year. Guidance on the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme can be found at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/non-domestic-rates-retail-leisure-and-hospitality-rates-relief-wales-2021-22>

We will continue to do all we can to support Welsh businesses through these incredibly difficult times and consider options beyond the current package of support.

Yours sincerely



Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales