



Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02849/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

16 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Petition P-05-1051 ahead of the Petition Committee's formal consideration.

The Welsh Government's approach to tackling the Covid-19 pandemic has been, and will continue to be, cautious and based on the latest advice from SAGE and the World Health Organisation.

To allow for the safe return of sport and physical activity, Sport Wales and the Welsh Sports Association established a number of planning groups at our instigation. The groups, with representatives from the breadth of sporting activity including Basketball Wales, have been tasked to consider more distinct challenges around the following themes:

- Elite and professional sports;
- Outdoor sports;
- Indoor sports; and
- Sport and Leisure Facilities.

The purpose of each group is to develop an approach for a phased return and consider opportunities that can be presented to the Welsh Government as part of each review of the regulations. The groups have played a key role in developing guidance for a phased return to sport. National Governing Bodies, including Basketball Wales, have also produced clear guidance on the steps needed for their individual sports to resume.

Regulations currently in force in Wales do allow organised activities to continue. This encompasses a broad range of activities run by a business, a public body or charitable institution, a club, or the national governing body of a sport or other activity. This could include a range of sports, music and recreational activities for young people. It also includes and activities provided outside of school hours and during school holidays, such as after school clubs or classes. These are not part of a child's formal education, though they have wider benefits for the child's development and wellbeing.

Following the end of the national firebreak a new set of national rules has been introduced, covering how people can meet and how the public sector and businesses operate. Further details of the new rules following the firebreak have recently been published on the Welsh Government's website and can be accessed via the link below.

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

Yours sincerely,

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

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism