



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-1058
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM -/01699/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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16 November 2020

Dear Chair,

I am writing in response to your letter of 20 October regarding a petition about a second national lockdown.

As you will know, we have just completed a 17-day firebreak period – also known as a circuit breaker – in Wales, which began on 23 October and ended on 9 November.

The Welsh Government introduced this firebreak period on the very clear advice of our scientific and medical advisers. The scientific advice underpinning our decision is set out in the report by the Technical Advisory Cell, which is published at: <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-fire-breaks>

Coronavirus has been spreading rapidly throughout Wales and is prevalent in every part of Wales. This short, sharp firebreak intervention was designed to help to bring coronavirus back under control. If we did not act, there was a very real risk our NHS would become overwhelmed and even more people would lose their lives as a result.

A new set of national measures have come into force from November 9, replacing the very strict firebreak restrictions and the local restrictions, which were in place in many parts of Wales prior to 23 October. These arrangements will be reviewed in two weeks' time.

The success of the firebreak will not be known for some weeks yet because of the time it takes for symptoms to appear. However, coronavirus will not disappear after the firebreak – it will still be with us. If we are to keep coronavirus under control, we all need to think about

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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.

our own lives and how we can keep our families safe. We need to stop thinking about the maximum limit of the rules and regulations.

Coronavirus is a highly infectious virus – it thrives on contact between people. To keep each other safe we need to reduce the number of people we have contact with and the amount of time we spend with them.

The new national measures are designed to maximise the impact and gains of the firebreak but we cannot go back to the way we were living our lives and throw away all that hard work. We all have an ongoing role to play in keeping Wales safe.

Best wishes,

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

MARK DRAKEFORD