



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1182
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/10178/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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16 August 2021

Dear Jack,

I am writing in response to your letter on 28 July about the petition your committee has received concerning only closing businesses which have had a Covid-19 case linked to them (P-06-1182).

Wales moved to alert level zero on 7 August. At this new level all businesses and premises can open, including nightclubs. Indoor hospitality and leisure, which are referenced in the petition, have been allowed to reopen since 17 May.

It is the role of local authorities to enforce requirements for businesses to take preventative measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus (including undertaking risk assessments and putting in place reasonable measures). This is achieved through the issuing of premises improvement and/or closure notices. This has been an important tool in responding to the pandemic and should remain in place.

It is already the case that if an individual business does not have any cases linked to them and if they are complying with the statutory requirements, then they would not be required to close by means of a premises closure notice.

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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.

We all hope there will not be a need for restrictions in the future which require businesses to close. I have however been very clear that coronavirus has not gone away. While we are able to take a significant step in moving away from complex legal restrictions, we must not abandon all the simple measures which have done so much to keep 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