

# P-05-973 Reopen barbers and hairdressers as long as they have strict social distancing measures in place.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 7 Gorffennaf 2020  
Petitions Committee | 7 July 2020

Reference: RS20/12937-5

**Petition Number:** P-05-973

**Petition title:** Reopen barbers and hairdressers as long as they have strict social distancing measures in place.

**Text of petition:** We have been in lockdown for over 2 months now. Some of us even longer if they chose to self-isolate early. With the recent opening of garden centres we should now be discussing the reopening of barber shops and hairdressers providing social distancing measures are taken seriously.

Appearance has always been very important but in this day and age it is even more so. When people don't look good they don't feel good and with us all being locked indoors we could all do with at least feeling good about ourselves. Mental health issues have grown dramatically over the last few years and one reason why is because of the growing need to look good in order to feel good and with the current lockdown mental health issues are bound to be becoming more common.

Social distancing measures in these establishments should include shops being appointment only, and only allowing limited amount of staff in per day, there should be a limited number of people in at any one time, no gathering or queueing outside, all tools utensils and chairs should be thoroughly cleaned between each customer, gloves and masks should be worn and chairs should be 2 metres away. Any other measures can be put in place to ensure safety also but these scruffy heads must be no more.



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## 1. Background

Barbers and hairdressers in Wales have been required to close since 23 March 2020, under *The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020*, as amended (the regulations). The **only purpose** for which they are allowed to reopen is if the Welsh Ministers or a local authority request them to do so for a social purpose. This does not mean that individual businesses can reopen for trading.

At the start of the lockdown, the National Hair and Beauty Federation **contacted officials across the governments of the UK** to “ask for all salons and barbershops to be immediately added to the list of businesses that must close”.

The Welsh Government has set out the steps it will take to lead Wales out of the coronavirus pandemic in **Unlocking our society and economy: continuing the conversation**. In relation to personal care services such as barbers and hairdressers, this states that **when Wales is at the Amber stage of lifting lockdown measures, the Welsh Government will “Trial some personal services under appointment (e.g. hairdressers).”**

## 2. The latest position in Wales

At its next review on 9 July, the Welsh Government will consider whether a number of types of business, including barbers and hairdressers, will be able to reopen.

In his **advice to the Welsh Government** ahead of the review of the regulations on 19 June, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer stated that:

While ensuring continuing measures to avoid direct harm from COVID-19 infection, a cautious and step-wise approach to easement should be taken to minimise long-term socio-economic effects of the pandemic.

[The Welsh Government press release](#) from 19 June announcing the changes following the most recent review stated that:

At the next review on 9 July, the Welsh Government will consider a range of specific options for opening:

- Self-contained holiday accommodation

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- Personal care services, such as hairdressing and beauty, by appointment.

The First Minister's [written statement](#) of the same date states that:

I am asking some businesses to begin to take steps to prepare now, in the event the conditions will be right to make further changes to the regulations.

The specific areas are:

- Preparations for reopening the visitor economy, including accommodation without shared facilities where social distancing is possible.
- Preparations for restarting personal care services by appointment, including hairdressing.

The Welsh Government's [Frequently Asked Questions document on the coronavirus regulations](#) also highlights that it is considering whether mobile hairdressers will be able to reopen at the same time as other hairdressers. It states that:

This is something we are still considering. We're currently working on how hairdressers can safely begin to resume services over the next three weeks for the next review of the regulations on 9 July - we need to look carefully at mobile hairdressing as part of this.

Following this announcement, the National Hair and Beauty Federation [wrote to](#) the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales to ask that the Welsh Government publish guidance for the hair and beauty sector to assist its members in preparing for reopening.

The Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales' letter to the Committee regarding the petition states that:

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...

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We want to restart activity as soon as possible if the conditions allow. We will continue to work closely with the public sector, trade unions, businesses, the third sector and others to achieve this.

### 3. The situation across the UK

On 18 June, the Northern Irish Executive **announced that barbers and hairdressers may reopen provisionally in Northern Ireland from 6 July**. The Minister for the Economy **stated that** the reopening will be conditional on coronavirus being contained.

The UK Government **announced on 23 June that barbers and hairdressers in England will be able to open from 4 July**. It has published **guidance for working safely in providing close contact services** including barbers and hairdressers. These highlight that close-contact workers should take extra precautions such as wearing a visor that covers the face, as well as maintaining social distancing where possible and regular handwashing.

On 24 June, the Scottish Government **stated that barbers and hairdressers could provisionally reopen in Scotland on 15 July, with enhanced hygiene measures**.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.