



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-986  
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/01405/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

8 July 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter dated 25 June, regarding Petition P-05-986 to allow small gyms and training spaces to open.

To allow for the safe return of sport and physical activity, Sport Wales and the Welsh Sports Association have established a number of planning groups at our instigation. The groups, with representatives from the breadth of sporting activity, 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 21 day review. These groups have also considered the guidance required to support the sector and I am pleased a representative of ukactive has been part of the discussions of the Sport and Leisure Facilities group.

By working together, the sector identified a basic framework for a phased return that was outlined in the Welsh Government's 'Unlocking our Society and Economy' roadmap. The timing and extent of resumed activity across the four themes in the roadmap will vary as we progress through the phases for moving out of lockdown. However, the message is clear: some activities - due to the limitations posed by social distancing - lend themselves to resume earlier than others, and a coordinated approach is required.

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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.

By working together, the groups have played a key role in developing guidance for a phased return to sport, which we published last month. A link to the guidance is set out below and is intended to support the reopening of facilities when the conditions are right.

<https://gov.wales/sport-recreation-and-leisure-guidance-phased-return.html>

We keep all of the restrictions under regular review. We have adopted a step-by-step approach to easing the restrictions and will learn from each step we take to make further changes. So far, we have focused on opening outdoor facilities as the risk of transmission is lower outdoors and many outdoor facilities are now accessible. We are continuing to work closely with the sector to discuss options for safely re-opening further facilities as swiftly and safely as possible.

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