



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1004
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/01914/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

13 August 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

Thank you for your correspondence as Chair of the Petitions Committee about the reopening of indoor dance schools in Wales petition that is currently collecting signatures. Welsh Government understands the frustration in the dance school community that they have not been permitted to open for indoor rehearsals until recently.

As highlighted by the First Minister on the 31 July, indoor gyms, leisure centres, swimming pools and other indoor physical activity leisure facilities including dance schools in Wales were permitted to re-open as of the 10 August **but only** if they maintained the relevant safety requirements. These requirements include: ensuring all facility users can maintain 2 metre distance from each other at all times, no more than groups of 30 to gather at any one time, and all staff are fully trained and aware of Covid requirements and conduct regular and vigorous cleans. [Guidance](#) will be available to these businesses and facilities, and the relevant authorities have been engaged in discussions throughout this process.

UKActive have developed a framework for re-opening the fitness and leisure sector safely which can be found here <https://www.ukactive.com/news/ukactive-unveils-recommended-framework-for-reopening-the-fitness-and-leisure-sector-safely/> Sports Wales also provide guidance here <https://www.sport.wales/media-centre/latest-news/implementing-covid-19-safety-measures-in-indoor-facilities/> and there is a small film about how safety measures can be implemented.

The decision to keep indoor leisure facilities closed until the 10 August was based on scientific advice to keep Wales safe. Science tells us that the virus lives on surfaces for far longer indoors than out. Evidence up to now has shown that risk of infection is higher

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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.

indoors in cooler, noisy and humid environments, and where exertion and loudness leads to heavier breathing and louder talking.

In terms of funding, the Welsh Government was pleased to see the UK Government's announcement on 5 July of additional support for the UK's culture sector. You might be aware by now of the Welsh Government [announcement](#) of a £53m fund to help Wales' diverse culture sector deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The total funding package is £53m in 2020-21 comprising £50m revenue and £3m capital.

The fund is intended to provide essential support to theatres, galleries, music venues, heritage sites, museums, libraries, galleries, archive services, events and festivals, and independent cinemas who have all seen a dramatic loss of revenue due to the pandemic. Funding will support both organisations and individuals in the sector.

The announcement comes on top of the £18m portfolio package provided in April, which was delivered by the Welsh Government, Arts Council of Wales and Sport Wales.

We have listened and worked with our partners across the cultural and creative sectors to put this second package of support together.

The fund will be delivered jointly with the Arts Council of Wales and has a "cultural contract" at its heart to help the sector emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever. This package will help support many in the sectors in responding to the pressures and challenges coronavirus has placed on them, it also presents a unique opportunity to deliver a step change – we will develop a cultural contract so that the sector can re-emerge stronger. This would ensure successful applicants commit to ensuring public investment is deployed with a positive, targeted social purpose.

Further details, including guidance for applicants, will be announced later in August. It will then be for individual organisations to determine if they are eligible to apply for support.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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