



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1057
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/01690/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

12 November 2020

Dear Chair

I am writing in response to your letter of 20 October about the petition to increase the number of people who can attend a wedding reception.

Prior to the firebreak period, which ended on 9 November, the regulations enabled up to 30 people to gather for a wedding reception. This was one of the few exceptions allowing people to gather indoors. This recognised the importance of allowing family and friends to celebrate the happy event.

During the firebreak, receptions could not be held, although the legal marriage or civil partnership ceremony could still take place. After 9 November, receptions will be able to be held once again for up to 15 people.

Where the reception takes place indoors, it will need to take place in regulated premises (such as pubs, restaurants, hotels or community centres) and there are limits on the type of activity that can take place – for example, loud music should not be played, and any food provided should be served at the table rather than at a buffet. The limits on those who can be present do not include children under 11 or staff working at the event.

For more information, please see our guidance on holding wedding receptions:
<https://gov.wales/risk-assessments-wedding-venues-and-events>

The petitioner compares gathering for a wedding reception with having a meal in a restaurant. There is a distinct difference between the two events. A gathering is a group of

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru • ps.firstminister@gov.wales

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.

people who come together for the same purpose and mingling between households significantly increases risk of the virus spreading. People may go to a restaurant for a meal but not mix socially with others in the venue and our regulations re-inforce this. In a gathering where people know each other and have come together to celebrate a happy event mingling is more natural and therefore requires careful management.

The scientific evidence shows that the virus is spreads more easily indoors because it can survive in the atmosphere and on surfaces for a very long time without direct sunshine and adequate ventilation. For that reason limiting the number who can gather indoors, even with mitigations such as social distancing and good hygiene measures, is important to reduce the risk of transmission and to protect loved ones from the virus.

There is international evidence of wedding receptions becoming super-spreader events. These events across the world underline the importance of taking a cautious approach.

Best wishes,

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

MARK DRAKEFORD