



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1101  
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03722/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

8 January 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding petition P-05-1101 allow fans to attend sporting events in Wales.

The Welsh Government's approach to easing restrictions is always in the context of the public health conditions. A series of test events were held in September with the expectation that the lessons learned, together with a wider series of test events, would help us plan for the eventual safe return of spectators to events. These events have since been put on hold due to the recent rise in the virus once again.

We are working closely with stakeholders, including an events industry group, to inform our decisions on when we might relax the measures around events and spectators. Subject to the public health position in the New Year, we are hoping to run further test events towards the spring. This will only be allowed when it is safe to do so, and when we are able to move into tiers 1 and 2 of the alert programme.

The regulations in England only allow spectators to events in areas that sit in their own tiers 1 and 2. As you know, many areas in England are now moving into its tiers 3 and 4, where spectators are not allowed, as cases of coronavirus are rising. Wales has a similar public health system and we are currently in our own alert level 4, which essentially means 'stay at home', whilst our level 3 requires the public to keep contact with others to an absolute minimum. Allowing spectators in Wales to return to venues at this critical time would go against these important messages and place public health at risk.

Further information on what each of the alert level means, what is allowed, and why and when we move between levels can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Frequently Asked Questions and answers regarding the regulations can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

The Welsh Government's approach to restrictions has been based the latest data and science relevant to Wales, and based on the latest advice from our own scientific and medical advisors. This is in order to limit the people we come into contact with, and reduce

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@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.

the speed of the transmission of the virus. Through these rules, we are trying to balance the importance of people's mental and physical well-being, and our economy, with the need to keep people safe and protect the NHS.

At the moment, the situation in Wales is very serious – the virus is present in all our local communities and is accelerating. Our NHS is under pressure. We need strong measures to bring the virus under control and to protect public health. We also need everyone to help, not just by following the rules but by making small changes to their daily routines and lives and reducing the contact they have with other people. This virus thrives on human contact – whenever we spend time with or near others there is a risk we will either catch or pass on coronavirus.

Doing activities outdoors, while safer, is not risk free and still requires people to leave their homes when it is not essential. As it becomes colder, darker and wetter the conditions for the virus improve. The Welsh approach during 'stay home' restrictions, based on expert behavioural advice, requires that people should be travelling as little as possible. Every exception to these rules or concessions in one area weakens that message and leads to misunderstandings amongst the population and places lives at risk.

As ever, we fully recognise the enormous efforts and sacrifices the Welsh public and businesses have made to keep Wales safe. The Welsh Government will continue to provide regular updates via the Covid19 Press Conferences over the coming days and weeks.

I hope this clarifies the current position regarding the regulations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS**

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