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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1102
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03732/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

30 December 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 16 December on behalf of the petitions committee regarding petition P-05-1102 Allow a minimum of one parent or guardian to watch children's organised football matches.

As you'll be aware the Welsh Government's approach to all Covid restrictions has been and will continue to be cautious, based the latest data and science relevant to Wales, and based on the latest advice from our own scientific and medical advisors. All in order to limit the people we come into contact with, and reduce the speed of the transmission of the virus.

Through the national rules, we are trying to balance the importance of sport and exercise to people's mental and physical well-being, with the need to keep people safe and protect the NHS.

While we fully understand the importance of sport and exercise to children and adults alike, we must also accept that the virus is still present within our communities and there are large numbers of people requiring the support of NHS services. We have worked alongside all of our national governing bodies throughout the pandemic, in this instance Sports Wales and the FAW. The decision not to allow spectators at junior football matches is in order to limit the opportunities for gathering, and the risks posed to volunteers to enforce to the 2 metre rule. While we understand most parents would respect the rule, this cannot be guaranteed for all, and this is not a risk we can take at this current time. Any adults that may be present during these activities, but who are not directly participating in or facilitating the activities, should not stay in the area where the activity is taking place. Supporters and spectators of organised activities should be limited to only those who absolutely need to attend, for example, parents or guardians of children who require their attendance for health or safeguarding reasons.

Any future decisions regarding the coronavirus regulations in Wales will be based on the latest scientific and medical data, and the need to protect public health.

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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.

At the moment, the situation in Wales is very serious – coronavirus 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 by not just 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 others there is a risk we will either catch or pass on coronavirus.

Since the petition was submitted, the situation has now changed, and as highlighted by the First Minister on [19 December](#), as of 20 December, Wales has been placed in alert level 4 restrictions. 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 revised tier plan puts in place four alert levels, aligned to the measures we will need to have in place to control the spread of the virus through the difficult winter months ahead of us and to protect people's health.

It also sets out how and when Wales will move between these alert levels. The all-Wales measures are designed to be as simple, fair and clear as possible and they will provide greater certainty for people and businesses about what legal restrictions will be put in place, depending on the level of risk, helping them to plan for the future.

Alert level 4 regulations state that we must all 'stay home' unless for essential reasons. Organised children's sport will not be allowed whilst Wales remains at this Alert Level. Doing such 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.

The Alert Level will be reviewed every three weeks, and should Wales move to the lower Alert Level Three (High Risk) following the review, indoor and outdoor sporting activity will be allowed, however, these will still need to be organised in accordance to the Welsh Government's guidance, and include measures to reduce the spread of the virus.

We fully recognise the enormous efforts and sacrifices the Welsh public and businesses have made to keep Wales safe and to save lives. The Welsh Government will continue to provide regular updates via the Covid19 press conferences and our social media channels over the coming weeks.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



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