

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1051
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/03774/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

13 January 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding a petition to allow Welsh junior athletes to train with same Covid regulations as equivalent English juniors.

Since your meeting the regulations have now changed and as highlighted by the First Minister on [19 December](#), as of 20 December, Wales has been 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](#).

Alert level 4 requires that no organised amateur sport is allowed in Wales. Throughout the pandemic we have worked closely with all of the relevant bodies, including Sports Wales, the Welsh Sports Association (WSA) and many of the sport national governing bodies (NGBs), such as the FAW and WRU, to ensure we are providing a clear message and taking on board the requirements of specific sports. Professional sport can continue, subject to guidance from the relevant NGB and reasonable measures being put in place to protect those involved. Athletes with elite status (designated by Sport Wales, via a National Sport Group which also includes representatives from the Welsh Government, the WSA and Commonwealth Games Wales) can also train and compete.

Our approach to all of the regulations has been to try and provide simple and consistent rules wherever possible. However throughout discussions with the sports sector it has been clear that it would be impossible to provide one set of rules for all. Considerations would be needed for the sports type itself, age groups, as well as the status of participants (professional or amateur). It is for this reason why we have asked the sports authorities themselves to create specific sports guidance, however ensuring they also align with the national regulations.

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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.

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

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.

Yours sincerely,

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

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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