



Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales)

9 February 2021

Dear Chair

I am writing in response to your letter of 18 December regarding the petition on support bubbles for parents of children under one.

The petition calls on the Welsh Government to revise the coronavirus regulations for alert level four to allow parents of children under one to form a support bubble with another household.

In Wales, extended households can be formed while Wales is in alert level 3 but while we are at alert level four these are suspended because we need to do all we can to reduce the number of people we are in contact with to stop the virus from spreading, especially the new variant strain.

But support bubbles are still available as an option for single parents and single households with single responsible adults.

However, even for those people who are not part of a support bubble, our rules allow people to access help and support from others, including family or friends, if they need it and there is no reasonable alternative.

We recognise that parents of babies and young children may sometimes need extra help and support. To help parents with newborn babies and young children, our rules allow for informal childcare arrangements with friends or family to continue. The rules also allow meetings with friends or family if extra support and help are needed, but only if there are no other reasonable methods by which the support and help can be provided.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

More information is available in the FAQs (see in particular the FAQ “I am a parent of a young baby, am I able to form a support bubble?” towards the end of the section on “seeing Other People”): <https://gov.wales/alert-level-4-frequently-asked-questions#section-58320>

We keep the alert level four provisions, and their impact on parents and children, under review as part of the regular three-week cycle for reviewing the regulations.

While this extra support is permitted, we ask everyone to think carefully about what is necessary and reasonable in their situation. We all need to think carefully about what is necessary to protect ourselves, our families and communities, and to protect the NHS.

Best wishes

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

**MARK DRAKEFORD**