

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-05-1142  
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/00218/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding petition P-05-1142.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on indoor activities such as swimming and fitness classes. That is why, throughout the lockdown, going outdoors for exercise is one of the limited reasons we have permitted people to leave their homes.

Since the start of the pandemic the Welsh Government has continued to work closely with the sport sector, and across public services to support different approaches to engaging and encouraging physical activity as a preventative health and wellbeing measure. We have operated a number of funds and schemes through Sport Wales, our provider for sport in Wales.

In 2020 the Welsh Government announced a £14m sport and leisure recovery fund for 2020-21 to help the sector meet the ongoing challenges resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and to help provide longer-term sustainability. The sport and leisure recovery fund is designed to help provide essential support to sports clubs and organisations, independent providers and sporting events which have suffered a significant loss of revenue over recent months. The fund also makes available funding for innovation in local authority leisure centres and leisure trusts which complements funding available for increased costs and loss of income from the local government hardship fund.

The Welsh Government have recently announced the 'private providers' fund which is focused on ensuring support for commercial providers for physical activity in Wales. more information on this please visit <https://www.sport.wales/sport-sector-private-providers-fund/>.

We previously operated the sport freelancer fund and also have the Be Active Wales Fund open for not-for-profit community clubs and organisations <https://www.sport.wales/beactivewalesfund/>. These range of financial support mechanisms all support providers to be viable through the pandemic.

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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.

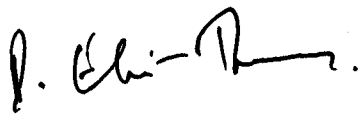
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Increasing opportunities to be physically active is central to ensuring that people across Wales are able to stay healthy and well. That is why, as part of Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales, we invested £500k for Sport Wales to develop a 60 Plus Active Leisure Scheme offer. This will enable Sport Wales to continue to deliver targeted provision of physical activity opportunities, to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities amongst the 60 plus population.

I thank you for your feedback and it has been taken on board. 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 information is helpful and illustrates some of the support that is being provided.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

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