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Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1146  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/00555/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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5 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February requesting views on petition P-05-1146 Provide a road map for how weddings can progress in Wales.

I understand the impact that these restrictions have had on couples who want to marry. In particular I understand the uncertainty that is created by not being able to predict the state of the virus and the effect that has on plans.

Under the current Alert Level 4 restrictions wedding ceremonies are allowed in places of worship and Registry Offices, and from 1 March they will be allowed in all 'approved' premises which are licenced to hold wedding and civil partnership ceremonies which includes hotels and visitor attractions. The decision whether or not to open will be at the discretion of those responsible for the building. The number who can be invited to attend will be determined by the risk assessment undertaken by the person responsible for the building.

Wedding receptions or parties can be held in Alert Levels 1 to 3 subject to any restrictions on the hospitality sector. The numbers who can attend are prescribed in the Regulations and vary dependent on the alert level in force at the time and whether the reception is held indoors or outdoors. These numbers do not include children 11 years and under. The numbers who can attend a social gathering have been limited as the virus thrives when there is sustained close contact between people particularly in social gatherings. This is explained in the recent advice by [the Technical Advisory Group: Current Evidence Relating to Weddings](#).

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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.

As well as setting out the restrictions for each alert level, including the numbers who can attend a wedding reception, the [Coronavirus Control Plan: Alert Levels in Wales](#) sets out the criteria for moving from one alert level to another. It does not include dates as it is not possible to predict when the criteria for moving from one alert level to another will be reached. Whilst the roll-out of the vaccine programme offers encouragement there are still many uncertainties about when the state of the pandemic, and its dreadful effects, will allow us to move further than the control plan itself.

Since the start of the pandemic the Welsh Government has made more than £2bn available to support business with more than £1.7bn already in accounts. For the latest range of restrictions £650m has been made available which sees every small business in a rateable property receive between £6k and £10k. In addition Welsh Government has delivered a £180m ERF Sector Specific fund for the Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure sectors and supply chain which would see for example a wedding venue employing ten staff receive up to an additional £15k. Other sources of funding includes the Freelance Fund and the Discretionary Funds managed by Local Authorities across Wales. All detail relating to any funds is available on <https://businesswales.gov.wales>.

Welsh Government will of course continue to evaluate the support required as the situation develops including understanding the needs of particular sectors aligned to the alert levels in Wales.

Officials and Ministers also meet on a regular basis with the Wales Weddings Stakeholder Group which has been established by the sector to discuss the challenges facing the sector during this pandemic including the financial support schemes, criteria for re-opening when it is safe to do so etc. These discussions also look at the impact on the wider supply chain and the couples impacted and affected by the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



**Julie James AS/MS**

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