



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1046  
Ein cyf/Our ref FM -/01688/20

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

25 August 2021

Dear Jack,

A request was received, during the last Senedd term, from the then-chair of the Petitions Committee, for my views on a petition received requesting that we reconsider lockdown measures and investigate the scientific evidence.

It now appears that a reply was not provided to that request. As a matter of courtesy, I provide a reply below, in case it should prove useful to the present Petitions Committee in the discharge of its duties.

The science used to inform lockdown measures is provided by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and our Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG published its evidence with regards to the need for a short-term period of simple, strict national restrictions to reduce the prevalence of Covid-19 in Wales at <https://gov.wales/technical-advisory-group-fire-breaks>. SAGE papers on circuit breaker and other non-pharmaceutical interventions are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circuit-breakers-implementing-partial-lockdown-for-2-weeks-over-half-term-24-september-2020>.

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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.

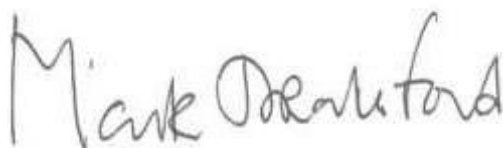
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

On 15 October 2020, SAGE published advice specifically on segmentation which can be found at the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/928740/S0810\\_Summary\\_of\\_SAGE\\_advice\\_on\\_segmentation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928740/S0810_Summary_of_SAGE_advice_on_segmentation.pdf)

I note that the petition refers to lockdowns being *based on the rise in the number of Covid positive test results and the belief that this will lead to more cases of Covid and a dramatic rise in deaths*. When a person tests positive for Covid, that is recorded as a Covid case, therefore a rise in the number of people testing positive for Covid, is a rise in the number of Covid cases.

Yours sincerely,

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

**MARK DRAKEFORD**