

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-05-1053
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02863/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

Dear Janet,

16 November 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Petition P-05-1053 ahead of the Petition Committee's formal consideration.

The Welsh Government's approach to tackling the Covid-19 pandemic has been, and will continue to be, cautious and based on the latest advice from SAGE and the World Health Organisation.

The local lockdowns and fortnight-long national firebreak lockdown were introduced to save lives and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. Cases of coronavirus have been rising sharply in Wales as we head into winter. While the national and local measures put in place across Wales have helped to keep that spread under check, there was a growing consensus that additional action was needed. Considerations have had to be made around the cumulative impact of all the actions we might make. It is the combined impact of numerous activities which makes the difference, not the risk posed by any one activity.

This requires a national effort, which means compromises and commitment from us all. Services which were essential to protect the health of the public during the period of the short lockdown have remained open. Sport and leisure facilities were not considered to be essential at this stage, as it was still possible to exercise outdoors during the short firebreak.

There are no current plans for further firebreaks. Should the need arise however, our approach when considering steps needed to control the spread of the virus would be determined by the circumstances at the time.

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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 First Minister recently set out the new national measures following the national firebreak, and confirmed that gyms and leisure facilities may re-open from 09 November 2020. Further information is available in the link below.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-new-national-covid-measures-wales>

Yours sincerely,

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

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

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