Dear Chair

I am writing in response to your letter dated 16 December regarding a petition asking for any coronavirus-related measures to be subject to a vote in the Senedd.

The Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations are made under Part 2A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. Section 45R of the Act allows Ministers to make regulations before they are approved by the Senedd if they are of the opinion that, by reason of urgency, it is necessary to make the regulations without a draft being laid before, and approved by, the Senedd.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring the Senedd has appropriate time to consider and scrutinise all restrictions. We are in the middle of an unprecedented public health emergency and it has been necessary for restrictions to be made under the emergency procedure for reasons of urgency. All restrictions have however been debated and approved in the Senedd. In addition, the Welsh Government has tabled a number of motions to give Members of the Senedd the opportunity to discuss changes to restrictions.

The existing Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) No.5 (Wales) Regulations 2020 require a review of restrictions to be undertaken every 21 days to ensure they are proportionate, effective and necessary.

Best wishes