



Janet Finch-Saunders MS

Chair, Petitions
Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

24 February 2021

Dear Chair

PETITION P-05-1122 ALLOW NEW ADOPTIVE PARENTS TO FORM A SUPPORT BUBBLE IN ALERT LEVEL 4

I am writing in response to your letter of 5th January seeking views on the ability for new adoptive parents to form a support bubble in alert level 4.

We recognise that Covid-19 continues to affect our daily lives and we know that new parents have extra challenges to face due to the current restrictions imposed.

I recognise that becoming an adoptive parent is challenging especially in the current climate with restrictions making accessing support more difficult at times. The pandemic has also brought similar challenges and uncertainty for many people in Wales. As such, our legislation states that on compassionate grounds, any person, can access help and support, as and when needed and from whoever an individual needs it from at the time e.g. from friends and family.

This provision is sufficiently flexible to enable anyone who feels they are in need of help during this time to seek assistance which includes newly adopted families in need of support. This is outlined in the Welsh Government's Covid-19 Guidance, which can be accessed via:

<https://gov.wales/visiting-people-private-homes-alert-level-4>

Even though extra support is permitted, I urge everyone to think carefully about what is the most sensible thing to do to protect their family, friends and community.

These are difficult decisions and we always try to balance people's individual needs, along with our responsibility to protect the health of the population and help save lives.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
YP.PrifWeinidog@llyw.cymru • ps.firstminister@gov.wales

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.

I am aware that the pandemic is regrettably imposing additional stress on our adoptive families in Wales. Our adoption agencies in Wales are available to offer help and advice to families throughout the pandemic and the National Adoption Service website provides adoptive families with up-to-date information on accessing support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I trust you find this information useful.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

MARK DRAKEFORD