



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1149  
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/00474/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

11 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding petition P-05-1149.

Whilst the Welsh Government fully acknowledges the importance of exercise for our children's physical and mental well-being, we remain at alert level four where the strictest 'stay at home' restrictions are in place. Once these are lifted, we will move into a period of transition under which we intend to move gradually, step-by-step, to alert level three. This will be when children under 11 will be able to participate in sport and exercise activities. The Welsh Government is unable to comment on any regulations made by the UK government.

The Welsh Government's approach to restrictions continues to be based on the latest data and science relevant to Wales, and considers the latest advice from our own scientific and medical advisors. Wales has made great progress over the last few weeks, and now is not the time to rush into relaxing rules too quickly.

The next 21 day review takes place on 12 March. As part of this process Ministers will continue to take on board the concerns and views of the public, alongside the latest expert advice and data for Wales which will inform decisions on what further changes can safely be made. As highlighted on the 19 February we are already seeing some positive signs from the lockdown, with transmission rates falling and the vaccination rollout well underway. We of course want to allow children and other people to return to activities such as team sports as soon as possible, but these changes will need to be made slowly. The phased easing of rules will only happen when the science and data tells us it is safe to do so. It is important we do not rush into anything which may lead to another wave of increased infections.

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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.

We fully understand the very difficult situation that the effects of the pandemic are having on our children's physical and mental health, however for a short period longer we need to maintain this strong clear message. We must all stick together to fight this pandemic to keep ourselves, our loved ones and the wider public safe.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism