

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ84170

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Welsh Parliament
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

20 January 2022

Dear Janet,

I write in response to WQ84170: What discussions has the Welsh Government undertaken with hospitality and tourism industry representatives to review the eligibility criteria and application window of the COVID-19 Economic Resilience Fund tranche announced on 23 December 2021?

Throughout the past two years Ministers have met regularly with hospitality and tourism industry representatives to discuss a range of issues relating to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

At the outset of the pandemic we established the Covid-19 Tourism Taskforce and the taskforce has evolved and expanded more recently to the Visitor Economy Forum. The Forum has representatives from the four regional tourism partnership fora, the Wales Tourism Alliance, night-time economy, events, the WLGA, unions, UK Hospitality and the Wales representatives on the Visit Britain Board and the UK Tourism Industry Council. Each meeting has provided an opportunity for a two-way update and helped plan a responsible return and renewal for the sector.

More recently, discussions have included the recent impact of alert level two restrictions on businesses and the wider economy and the £120m funding package, including the ERF and NDR grants, that has been made available.

Following these discussions with stakeholders, we amended the eligibility criteria for the level of reduced turnover required for the ERF. To be eligible for an ERF grant businesses in the hospitality, leisure and attractions sectors and their supply chains, must have experienced a material impact through reduced turnover of 50% (from 60% previously) or more between December 2021 and February 2022 as compared to December 2019 and February 2020.

The First Minister has announced, if the public health conditions allow, we will return to alert level zero in our Coronavirus control plan from 28 January.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
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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.