



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ84179

Mark Isherwood MS
Welsh Parliament
Mark.Isherwood@senedd.wales

20 January 2022

Dear Mark,

I write in response to WQ84179: Will the Minister answer the concerns of the North Wales hospitality sector who ask when they will be on a level playing field to their counterparts in England in regards of COVID-19 restrictions and support?

Throughout the pandemic, the Welsh Government has taken a science-led and evidence-based approach to our response and will continue to put the health of the people of Wales at the forefront of our decision-making.

As the First Minister emphasised recently, Wales has taken action over recent weeks to protect its population, as has Scotland, Northern Ireland and other countries across Europe. The one country that stands out as not taking action to protect its population is England, therefore drawing comparisons with England on restrictions is particularly unhelpful.

On the 14 January the First Minister announced a phased plan to move gradually out of alert level 2 and fully back to alert level zero from 28 January. From Friday 21 January, Wales would move to alert level zero for all outdoor activities.

This means there will be no limits on the number of people who can take part in outdoor activities.

- Crowds will be able to return to outdoor sporting events.
- Outdoor hospitality would be able to operate without additional reasonable measures.
- The Covid Pass will be required for entry to larger outdoor events.

If the downward trend continues, from Friday 28 January, Wales would move to alert level zero for all indoor activities.

- Nightclubs will be able to re-open.
- Working from home would remain important but it would no longer be a legal requirement.
- Businesses, employers and other organisations must undertake a specific coronavirus risk assessment and take reasonable measures to minimise the spread of, coronavirus.
- The Covid Pass will be required to enter larger indoor events, nightclubs, cinemas, theatres and concert halls.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@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.

- The rule of 6, table service and 2m physical distancing no longer required in hospitality.

The three-weekly review cycle would be re-introduced from 10 February, when the Welsh Government will review all remaining measures at alert level zero.

To provide support to those impacted by our restrictions, we have made unprecedented levels of funding available to support businesses through the pandemic, including through the Wales-only Economic Resilience Fund and the non-domestic rates (NDR) linked grants and discretionary grants which were delivered by local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy