# Rob Roberts MP
## Member of Parliament for Delyn

RR/WB

## HOUSE OF COMMONS
### LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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23rd June 2020

Dear First Minister

## Re: Easing of lockdown

I am writing to you today further to my previous correspondence of the 18th June following the announcement by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons today that the lockdown will again be eased in England and that the UK Government are working towards finding a new normal that is alert to the dangers of coronavirus, but also allows people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

I am pleased also that these changes have been wholeheartedly welcomed by the leader of your Party, Sir Keir Starmer.

The move to reduce the two metre rule, where necessary and where safe and sensible precautions are followed, is particularly helpful to businesses the length of England. Those that rely on high volumes of trade, such as those in the hospitality industry will now be given a fighting chance against the effects of the pandemic.

I am delighted to see that pubs and restaurants, places of worship, hotels and campsites, museums and galleries, libraries, community halls, barbers and hairdressers and a range of other indoor and outdoor facilities can open from the 4th of July in England as long as they are Covid secure.

These steps are all very important and cautious moves to reopen the economy and hand back freedoms to the people and to trust them. This is particularly important as these changes will be in the form of guidance only, rather than in regulation. The tourism and hospitality sector in my constituency and across the wider North Wales region, which you previously appeared to consign to the scrapheap for this year, will be paying particular attention to your next announcements carefully, with the abiding hope that you offer them some succour from their purgatory.

This is to be welcomed because it recognises that the British people have acted responsibility during the lockdown and can be trusted to use their judgment to exercise cautious common sense in assessing risk and ensuring we all remain safe as we get our lives moving again.

These changes are a much-needed lifeline to families who needed support to enable them to rebuild their lives and livelihoods and I urge you to take the required steps to support people in Wales who want nothing more than to be afforded the same opportunities as their friends and family in England in order to rebuild their livelihoods too. Wales cannot be left behind as the rest of the UK works to establish a new normal that keeps us safe and in house and home. We must also be cognizant of the

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economic impacts of the continued restrictions of lockdown and that it would be disingenuous of the Welsh Government to continue to rely on funding streams from Westminster to support businesses for things like the Job Retention Scheme, SEISS, CBILS and BounceBack that may not be required if businesses are allowed to re-open.

It is vital that we take expert advice on this issue, and it is important to note that the changes announced in London today are based on the shared advice given by all the Chief Medical Officers in the UK. Therefore, First Minister, I ask that you urgently review this advice and undertake an immediate re-assessment of lockdown measures in Wales so that families and businesses are not left behind and have the chance to rebuild and recover from the pandemic. Please afford them the same opportunity as exists in England. Please support the measures announced by the Prime Minister and graciously supported by your Party Leader. This is no time for political wrangling to get in the way of helping our country to recover.

Yours

**Rob Roberts MP**
**Member of Parliament**
**Delyn**

CC      Rt Hon. Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales