

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref RR/KS/MD
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02760/20

Rob Roberts MP
MP for Delyn
House of Commons
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28 October 2020

Dear Rob

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 October, on behalf of a constituent regarding the return of fans to spectator sports.

Apologies for the delay in responding to your query. We have been dealing with large amounts of correspondence during the lockdown period on various subjects.

On 21 August the First Minister announced plans had been put in place to roll out a phased safe return to sport for spectators and larger participant gathering programme which included numerous test events. However, due to the recent rise of the virus once again these plans have now been out on hold. We will continue to monitor the data and science, and look to reintroduce spectators to sporting and cultural events and increasing the 30 number for any one event, but only when it is safe to do so.

The Welsh Government has announced a £14m sport and leisure recovery fund for 2020-21 to help the sector meet the ongoing challenges resulting from the coronavirus pandemic and to help provide longer-term sustainability.

The sport and leisure recovery fund is designed to help provide essential support to sports clubs and organisations, independent providers and sporting events which have suffered a significant loss of revenue over recent months. The fund also makes available funding for innovation in local authority leisure centres and leisure trusts which complements funding available for increased costs and loss of income from the local government hardship fund. This recovery fund will be delivered by Sport Wales, our key delivery agent, and will be in addition to the Emergency Sport Relief Fund and the Be Active Fund, which are also being administered by Sport Wales.

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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.

£14 million funding package for Wales' sport and leisure sector: <https://gov.wales/14m-funding-package-for-wales-sport-and-leisure-sector> and <https://www.sport.wales/media-centre/latest-news/14m-funding-package-for-wales-sport-and-leisure-sector/>

However and in addition to the above, further to the First Minister's announcement on 19 October, people in Wales will be required to stay at home between 23 October and 9 November to help regain control of coronavirus. Frequently Asked Questions relating to the firebreak can be found [here](#). As outlined in the FAQ, only professional athletes have a reasonable excuse to leave home to train or compete during the firebreak as the regulations allow people to work.

The fortnight-long action is needed to save lives and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. Cases of coronavirus have been rising sharply in Wales as the virus has woken up for winter. While the national and local measures put in place across Wales have helped to keep that spread under check, there is a growing consensus that additional action is now needed. Considerations have had to be made around the cumulative impact of all the actions we might make. It is the combined impact of numerous activities which makes the difference, not the risk posed by any one activity.

Following the end of the firebreak, a new set of national rules will be introduced, covering how people can meet and how the public sector and businesses will operate. We fully recognise the enormous efforts the Welsh public and businesses have made to keep Wales safe.

Yours sincerely,



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