

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref JM/01955/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

13 January 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December regarding the petition on baby and toddler activities.

The petition calls on government to issue targeted guidance and a voucher scheme for the baby and toddler activity sector.

I agree that there are many potential benefits for both parents and children who attend these activities. For the parents, they can provide emotional and practical support, assist in reducing social isolation and loneliness and they provide an opportunity for babies and toddlers to socialise and play with their peers.

In Wales, baby and toddler activities are considered to be organised activities for children in the context of the Coronavirus Act (Wales) Regulations 2020 and, as such can take place up to alert level three. Detailed guidance has been published and can be found here: <https://gov.wales/leaving-your-home-and-seeing-other-people-alert-level-3#section-58472>

However, we cannot overstate the seriousness of the current situation – rates of coronavirus are incredibly high in Wales and are being fuelled by a new variant strain of the virus, which is highly-infectious and fast-moving.

The purpose of moving to alert level four is to do everything we can to slow the spread of coronavirus, save lives and protect the NHS. As a result, we have suspended organised activities for children.

At the current alert level, to help parents with new born babies and young children, our rules allow for informal childcare arrangements with friends or family to continue and to be able to meet with immediate family if some extra support and help is needed.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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 do not consider it is necessary to issue a voucher scheme specifically for this sector. Businesses which are impacted by the coronavirus pandemic are able to apply for financial and business support, as outlined in the coronavirus advice section of the Business Wales website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie', is positioned below the closing text.

Julie Morgan AS/MS

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