



Ein cyf/Our ref: VG/03548/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

4 March 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December regarding petition P-05-1029 on the introduction of Mandatory Testing of Passengers arriving at Cardiff Airport. Your letter has been transferred to me as the issue rests within my portfolio. Please accept my apologies that you did not receive a letter in response to your original letter of 11 September.

The Welsh Government aims for a four nations approach as far as possible on international travel regulations and works with counterparts to co-ordinate a proportionate response to manage the health risks posed by travellers arriving in Wales. The situational context has changed significantly since September last year when the travel corridors arrangements were in place and the issues presented by the new coronavirus variants of concern were yet to be understood.

From 18 January the travel corridors were suspended until further notice and all people travelling to Wales or the UK were required to provide evidence of a negative covid test taken 72 hours prior to departure. People were required to isolate at home for 10 days.

On 12 February advice received from the Joint Biosecurity Centre indicated that it was difficult to fully assess the public health risk posed by the incidence and spread of variant strains of coronavirus. Enhanced measures have been introduced to manage those risks.

These enhanced measures include a new testing system for persons aged 5 years or over arriving into Wales (subject to a limited number of exemptions), requiring them to book and undertake testing on day 2 and 8 of their isolation period. Negative results does not reduce the 10 isolation period.

More significant risks are associated with arrivals from “red list countries” and in order to further protect against the risk of community transmission of variant strains additional measures have been introduced. This includes prohibiting a person who has been in a red list country in the last 10 days from entering Wales from 4am on 15 February. Failure to comply with this restriction will be a criminal offence, liable to a fine. Such travellers must arrive at a designated port in England or Scotland and are required to complete a 10 day managed quarantine period in accordance with regulations that came into force on Monday 15 February 2021.

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 regulations are reviewed every 28 days and the restrictions may be adjusted in light of the latest assessment of health risks in terms of both importation and community transmission especially in respect of the new variants. The current testing arrangements are considered in the context of those reviews.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

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

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services