

Coronavirus Restrictions Review - 22 April 2021

SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Introduction

A Summary Impact Assessment (SIA) was produced in December 2020 following the introduction of a system of alert levels in Wales, which can be viewed [here](#). Following the 21 Day Review in February 2021, a further SIA was produced which can be viewed [here](#). The latest SIA was produced following the 21 Day Review on 1 April which can be found [here](#).

The revised Coronavirus Control Plan can be seen on the Welsh Government website [here](#).

This document aims to capture an assessment of the impact of the easements made or signalled during the 21 Day Review on 22 April 2021 on different demographics in Welsh society.

The emergence in December of the now dominant and more infectious 'Kent variant' of the virus led to a need for tightened restrictions at alert level four (e.g. preventing face to face learning for the vast majority of learners in education). Since then, the health position in Wales has improved enabling some modest easements to be made in the February and March restriction reviews. The improvements have continued and have been sustained enabling the cautious and gradual transition to alert level three in Wales.

The primary easements made at the 21 Day Review on 22 April 2021 are as follows:

From 24 April 2021:

- The restrictions on gathering with others outdoors are relaxed to allow a maximum of 6 people (not including children under 11 or carers) to gather from no more than 6 households.

From 26 April 2021:

- People may gather outdoors for the purposes of participating in formally organised activities involving up to 30 people (this involves a designated person being responsible for the activity, all reasonable measures being taken to minimise the spread of coronavirus while undertaking the activity and no consumption of alcohol). Formally organised activities can include protesting and picketing, which can take place without a limit on the number of people present at all alert levels apart from alert level four.
- Certain businesses including visitor attractions and swimming pools will be allowed to reopen their premises for outdoor activities, including the consumption of food and drink outdoors (from 6.00am onwards that day).
- Provided the act took place on or after 26 March 2020, outdoors gatherings of up to 30 people are allowed to celebrate the solemnisation of a marriage, formation

of a civil partnership or an alternative wedding ceremony, or the life of a deceased person.

- People gathering when working in people's homes, for example by tradespeople, is allowed without it needing to be necessary or without the need for a "reasonable alternative" (unless at Alert Level 4).
- "Pilot" events may now be organised with the permission of the Welsh Ministers.

From 3 May 2021:

- Gyms, fitness facilities, leisure centres, spas (but not steam rooms) and swimming pools can reopen their indoor premises;
- A household may agree to be treated as an extended household with one other household, or with two other households if one of those households is a well-being needs household. An extended household can meet and have contact in private dwellings;
- Children's indoor activities for the purposes of their development or well-being are allowed;
- Organised indoor activities for up to 15 people (not counting persons under the age of 11) are allowed which would enable, for example, group exercise classes to take place;
- Community centres can also open their indoor premises.

Legislative background

The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 26 March 2020, and were subsequently replaced by The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (No. 3) and (No. 4) (Wales) Regulations 2020. A consolidated version of the most recent Regulations can be found [here](#).

This Summary Impact Assessment relates to the amendments made to The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) Regulations 2020 as a result of the 21 Day Review on 22 April 2021.

Review of restrictions regulations

The Regulations are reviewed every three weeks in line with the latest evidence and intelligence.

Impact Assessments

The following impact assessments relating to the easements made can be found in the remainder of this document:

- i. 'Rule of 6' – gathering with others

- ii. Organised Outdoor Activities
- iii. Visitor Attractions
- iv. Weddings and other life events
- v. Gyms and other facilities
- vi. Organised Indoor Activities
- vii. Organised Indoor Children's Activities

i. 'Rule of 6' Gathering

WELLBEING IMPACTS

There are significant negative impacts associated with restricting people socialising.

The Public Health Wales (PHW) survey on health and wellbeing (1 to 7 March 2021) showed that when asked how they have felt in the last week 22% of people reported feeling lonely occasionally whilst 16% felt lonely always or often. Some 24% of people felt isolated occasionally with 25% reporting feeling this way always or often. Over this period the proportion reporting being worried about their mental health and wellbeing was 58%.

The following data was used during the easing from stay home to stay local in 2020. The survey which contained the data has not been updated since November 2020. It is likely that the key messages below are relevant to this easing due to the environment in June 2020 looking relatively similar to present day.

A combined analysis by PHW of the survey on health and wellbeing carried out between 13 April and 7 June 2020 identified specific concerns of those classed as clinically vulnerable, including 25% of vulnerable individuals worrying a lot about their mental health and wellbeing (compared with 14% of those with no vulnerabilities).

Previous analysis by Public Health Wales¹ of the data from its weekly wellbeing surveys (covering the period of 13 April – 10 May) identified key demographic findings for people living in the most deprived areas of Wales who are more likely to be: self-isolating (45% of the most deprived fifth of the population compared with 31% of the most affluent fifth of the population); very worried about their mental health (30% vs 17%); feeling very anxious (28% vs 20%); and feeling isolated (29% vs 18%).

In terms of gender, females are more likely to be: self-isolating (40% vs 33%); very worried about their mental health (25% vs 20%); feeling very anxious (28% vs 20%); and feeling isolated (29% vs 18%). More females say their sleeping is negatively affected during lockdown. Whilst they report increases in snacking more and using social media more than males during the coronavirus restrictions, females are also spending more time outdoors and have been talking to friends and family more than they usually would.

¹ <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/how-are-you-doing/week-4-report-how-are-we-doing-in-wales/>

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) report 'Coronavirus and loneliness'² (3 April – 3 May) considers how the coronavirus has impacted people living with loneliness. While this is now dated, it highlighted the chronically lonely and the lockdown lonely were most worried about the impact of Covid-19 on their wellbeing over other concerns. They were more likely than average to report feeling stressed or anxious; spending too much time alone; feeling bored; impacts on their mental health; strain on personal relationships and having no-one to talk to about their problems.

ONS also produced analysis in December 2020 looking at the impact of Coronavirus on depression in adults. This indicated that around a fifth of adults were likely to experiencing some form of depression in November 2020, almost double the rates reported prior to the pandemic. It also showed that younger adults, women, those unable to afford an unexpected expense or disabled people were most likely to be experiencing depression.³

Additional evidence:

- Ipsos Mori survey data⁴ suggests that 17% of Welsh participants are worried about not being able to go out in general and 20% of Welsh participants are worried about their mental health
 - Hafal's survey of 300 adults in Wales⁵ suggest that 73% of participants say their mental health has been negatively affected as a result of the coronavirus outbreak
- Mental Health Foundation's longitudinal study⁶ suggests that 24% of UK adults have felt loneliness because of coronavirus and feelings of loneliness have more than doubled since lockdown.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

For those businesses able to operate, the change to allow people to meet the same number of people from more households could potentially see a marginal positive impact as a result of more people being to access their services. For example, there may be a marginal positive economic impact as it will allow for a wider pool of customers to visit different businesses, notably hospitality. These businesses are also more likely to attract more customers if they can visit with more of their friends and family.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The potential increased movement of people could have an impact on air quality as people begin to travel longer distances within and to Wales. The current health

²<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandlonelinessgreatbritain/3aprilto3may2020>

³<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/11december2020#loneliness-of-adults-experiencing-some-form-of-depression-or-anxiety>

⁴ <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/Covid-19-and-mental-wellbeing>

⁵ <https://www.hafal.org/2020/04/survey-raises-concerns-about-the-provision-of-mental-health-services-in-wales-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

⁶ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/research/coronavirus-mental-health-pandemic>

situation and constrained public transport capacity will lead to a greater use of private vehicles and limited use of car sharing. Active travel is being actively promoted, but this is unlikely to be viable for longer distances.

Increased use of outdoor spaces could also have a positive impact in terms of peoples' attitudes and perceptions of environmental public goods. This could help reinforce the benefits of environmental protection as we move out of lockdown over time. There is also a risk of negative environmental impacts from overcrowding and littering, which has been seen recently in places in Wales and many popular tourist areas across England. This is exacerbated by the shift to provision of takeaway food and drink given ongoing restrictions on pubs, cafes and restaurants. Public messaging on the need to act responsibly to protect the environment and avoid crowded places could help mitigate this further. There is likely to be a continued issue with increased waste from take-away food and drink until restrictions on related premises are relaxed.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it allows up to six people from up to a maximum of six households to meet for any reason outdoors, including private garden and outdoor hospitality settings that will have affected different groups in different ways.

<i>Protected characteristic or group</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<p><i>Positive:</i> Allowing 6 people from up to 6 different households to meet for any reason will benefit those cut-off from family and friends, mitigating effects of loneliness and isolation or digital exclusion.</p> <p><i>Negative:</i> People of all ages, but particularly older people, may be concerned about increased risks from an increase in people meeting outdoors</p>	<p>A range of survey data suggests younger people (18-29) are most likely to be worried about their mental health, and a more likely than other age groups to feel isolated.</p> <p>People over 70 are more likely to be worried about their health and the risks of contracting COVID-19, however the majority of this age group have received</p>	<p>Guidance will be issued to outline increased risks of people meeting outdoors (up to 6 people from 6 households), and how to best protect against transmission (social distancing).</p> <p>Continued guidance for those clinically extremely vulnerable to ensure additional risks are considered when outdoors.</p>

		at least the first dose of the vaccine, so could alleviate some of the concerns.	
<i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i>	Positive: for disabled people who have not needed to access provisions under support and care will be able to meet socially with additional friends and family outdoors	Our rules already allowed for disabled people (including disabled children) to access support and care from friends and family. Therefore, disabled people could already meet.	No specific additional mitigations are proposed
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	<i>Positive:</i> The ability to access support networks may have been constrained by the restrictions which would negatively affect wellbeing.	<i>No specific evidence identified</i>	N/A
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	<i>Positive:</i> Issues of loneliness, isolation or access to support networks may have been exacerbated by restrictions on meeting with other households	<i>No specific evidence identified</i>	N/A
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	<i>Positive:</i> No specific differential impacts households <i>Negative:</i> Black Asian and minority ethnic individuals are known to be at higher risk from the effects of coronavirus and may have heightened concerns about easing restrictions.		General communication activity on the risks for different groups and ongoing need for everyone to continue to follow guidance such as social distancing and good hygiene.
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	N/A
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	<i>Positive:</i> The restrictions appear to affect different sexes	Surveys indicate females are more likely to be self-	No specific additional mitigations are proposed

	in different ways, which could be mitigated by relaxation.	isolating, very worried about their mental health, feeling anxious and feeling isolated. More females say their sleeping is negatively affected during lockdown	
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	N/A
<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	No specific differential impacts identified.	People who were married or cohabiting were less likely than average to feel lonely (chronic and 'lockdown' loneliness) (ONS opinions and lifestyle survey, May 20)	N/A
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	<i>Positive:</i> Children under the age of 11 are excluded from the six people meeting restriction.	The top two issues for children (12-18) relating to restrictions are 'not being able to spend time with friends' (72%) and 'not being able to visit family members' (59%) (Coronavirus and Me survey, January 2021)	N/A
<i>Low-income households</i>	<i>Positive:</i> Issues of loneliness, isolation or access to support networks may have been exacerbated by restrictions on meeting with other households.	<i>PHW Wellbeing survey:</i> those living in the most deprived areas of Wales are more likely to be self-isolating, be feeling anxious and isolated during coronavirus restrictions, and report greater worries about their mental health	N/A

Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone's right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

<i>Human Rights</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate negative impacts?</i>
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	<i>Positive:</i> removing meeting other people outdoors restrictions will facilitate family relationships by limiting restrictions placed by the government. Remaining restrictions on indoors and numbers of households continue to be proportionate on public health grounds.	The restrictions were based on public health grounds and the assessment and review process seeks to lift these as soon as they are no longer proportionate. This process has led to the proposal to lift this restriction.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The convention has been considered in this assessment. The restrictions on movement and gatherings conflicts with the following Articles:

- Article 15 – Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.
- Article 31 – All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Children under 11 are excluded from the restrictions on meeting outdoors. This easement will mitigate the restrictions on older children and allow them to meet with more of their friends at the same time. These rights will still be constrained by the need to contain the spread of the virus and protect public health (e.g. continued physical distancing).

The Coronavirus and Me survey of 23,700 children in Wales ensures the views of children inform policy choices (Article 12 – Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have

their opinions taken into account). This survey finds the top two stay at home rules that have impacted young people (12-18) the most on how they feel are 'not being able to spend time with friends' (72%) and 'not being able to visit family members' (59%). For many there has been a pleasure in spending more time with their family, learning new skills and enjoying the outdoors in gardens and during daily exercise.

For some, this period has also brought relief from previous social and health pressures such as mental health difficulties or bullying.

Welsh Language

The proposal does not have any identified negative impact on the Welsh language. In general terms the ability to meet with people from up to five other households outdoors could have a positive effect on the use of the Welsh language. This will enable Welsh speakers to meet with other Welsh speakers across Wales and beyond. Welsh medium education is not affected by this proposal.

ii. Outdoor Organised Activities

WELLBEING IMPACTS

A number of studies covering Wales and internationally show that coronavirus is having, or is likely to have, a lasting impact on the wellbeing of people⁷. It is exacerbating feelings of anxiety, loneliness, and unhappiness in people. This is often due to a lack of contact with their peers.

The What Works Centre for Wellbeing identifies strong evidence that participatory arts, sport, and cultural activities can improve wellbeing when they bring together participants in the same physical space⁸. The restrictions for individuals associated with the Level 4 restrictions, may limit the associated benefits of participating in arts, sport and culture together.

Organised activities, and particularly sport and physical activity, plays a part in reducing loneliness and isolation, supporting a healthy and active nation, and is an integral part of the wider preventative agenda across a range of cross-government portfolio areas. There is good scientific evidence that being physically active can help us lead healthier and happier lives. Regular exercise can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, dementia, some cancers, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.

The results of a survey commissioned by Sport Wales and conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020 revealed that overall, people are doing less physical activity at this time.

⁷ See for example:

https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc_cid=c975bde8f8&mc_eid=e4236b0dbe

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Sport and physical activity participation yields a generous return on investment in terms of the consequential benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. People playing sport and exercising regularly in the outdoors reduces their reliance on health and social services, reduces sickness levels, increases productivity and contributes to a greener Wales through active travel.

The benefits of sport and exercise are multi-dimensional. In 2019, Sport Wales published a Social Return on Investment (SROI) Report. The analysis, conducted by the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University, measured the wider contribution sport makes to Wales. The report found that:

- For every £1 invested in sport in Wales there is a return of £2.88.
- £3,428m of benefits for Welsh communities was generated from participating and volunteering in sport in 2016/17.
- A breakdown of the overall figure shows the social value of enhanced social capital is £651.47m; enhanced education is £91.15m; and reduced crime is £2.17m. The social value of improved health is £295.17m.
- Subjective wellbeing accounts for a significant proportion of the social value generated in Wales (60.6%).
- The sport industry in Wales grew by 10% to £1,142m in 2016/17. The sport sector was found to out-perform pharmaceuticals, travel, accommodation and textiles industries in Wales.
- The sporting economy contributed £1,182m in Consumer Expenditure on Sport and generated 29,700 sport-related jobs in the same year.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The environmental impacts of allowing people to engage in outdoor activity and specifically physical activity is likely to be extremely low given that most activities are not associated with emission contributing technology. Facilities will be predominantly used locally, with no significant expected increase in emissions associated with travelling to use facilities.

As with restarting activity in other sectors, easing restrictions may theoretically increase the reasons people have for using private transportation, but whether this will have a significant impact on overall CO2 equivalent emissions or air quality is not currently known.

Increased use of outdoor spaces could also have a positive impact in terms of peoples' attitudes and perceptions of environmental public goods. This could help reinforce the benefits of environmental protection as we move out of lockdown over time.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on travel that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to public places not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

<i>Protected characteristic or group</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<p>Positive – access to organised activities has positive impact on mental and physical well-being.</p> <p>Under 18 organised activities have been taking place for some time and has already had a positive impact. All ages will benefit from this change, but in particular older retired individuals of which some only have contact with other through activities such as Golf, Arts etc.</p>	The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting Covid-19 increases with age, but these are largely mitigated through being outdoors in sunlight, maintaining social distance and good hand hygiene	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i>	Neutral: generally people with disabilities should be able to access and benefit from the same opportunities as others to engage in more organised activities held outdoors. However, in respect of organised outdoor group activities, they could benefit more from specialised group activities where providers are able to re-commence such activities in	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	<i>n/a</i>

	accordance with COVID-secure requirements.		
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	No major differential impact expected. However some individuals do highlight they feel safer training in groups / organised activates rather than in isolation	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	No major differential impact expected, however it may be safer for pregnant women to train under expert supervision rather than on own.	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe	<i>n/a</i>

<i>seekers and Refugees)</i>		social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	<i>Potential for men to benefit more as they have higher participation levels in sport</i>	Reduce loneliness and isolation as provides increased opportunities for safe, social interaction. Will also improve and promote physical and mental wellbeing through undertaking more activity.	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	<i>n/a</i>

<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	Under 18s organised outdoor activities already allowed.	Under 18s organised outdoor activities already allowed.	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Low-income households</i>	<i>Positive: While evidence suggests that net levels of physical activity have not shifted significantly in Wales, there is a differential effect by socioeconomic background for adults and children. Those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds are engaged in more physical exercise than before the crisis and those from poorer socio-economic backgrounds are engaged in less. Re-enabling activity in this area will widen the scope for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to engage in physical exercise.</i>	Sport Wales survey conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020: “There are however significant variations within certain demographic groups. There is a net increase in activity levels amongst those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds (+7 percentage points), however there is a net decrease amongst those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (-4 percentage points).” “Those from lower socio economic backgrounds appear to be experiencing the greatest reductions	<i>n/a</i>

		(LOW SES: More 23% Less 36% = -13 percentage points HIGH SES: More 28% Less 35% = -7 percentage points)”	
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Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone’s right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
<i>The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing	n/a

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Organised outdoor activities for under 18s is already allowed, but this does not include mixed participant adults and children activities (apart from coaches / volunteers etc.). By allowing all age groups to participate in outdoor activities together would contribute towards the following Articles:

- **Article 15** – Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their

rights.

- **Article 31** – All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Easing current restrictions on outdoor group activities would enable the Welsh Government to meet its obligations of two articles. Allowing children from more than two households to exercise together will allow us to meet our obligations under Article 15. Removing restrictions on outdoor group activities would enable us to meet our obligations under Article 31.

Welsh Language

The proposal does not have any identifiable negative impact on the Welsh Government's commitment to preserve and promote the Welsh Language. Within the Welsh Government's own plans to reach a million Welsh Speakers by 2050, which is set out in **Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers**, it stresses the importance of promoting the use of the Welsh language as well as increasing the population that can speak Welsh. The second theme of Cymraeg 2050 is on **Increasing the Use of Welsh**, it states: *"People need opportunities to use Welsh in a variety of situations which reflect the diversity of their lifestyles. These include opportunities within the family, in the workplace, in local activities, or in wider interest networks and communities which can span continents"*.

iii. Visitor Attractions

WELLBEING IMPACTS

Tourism, including attractions, contributes to the growth and prosperity of local economies across Wales. Typically, tourism employs more women than men. A higher proportion of employment in tourism in Wales is part time which accounts for nearly half of all employment and this has been increasing in recent years. When comparing to the total for the other priority sectors in Wales, the share of employment in Tourism is substantially higher for people who are BAME and those aged 16-24 years and is slightly higher for people who have a disability.

The tourism sector provides the accommodation, facilities and infrastructure that enable Welsh speaking young people to work in their communities. Many predominantly Welsh-speaking areas are highly dependent on tourism for income and employment.

We have published an integrated impact assessment for tourism which, although completed prior to the pandemic, is still largely relevant.

The visitor economy contributes to health and wellbeing outcomes by supporting, promoting and improving access to outdoor leisure opportunities and tourism facilities and supports the UNCRC article requiring that all children and young people have a right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of activities.

The main prompted factor endorsed by UK staying visitors in 2019 in attracting them to come to Wales was to help them relax and escape from the stresses of life and over two thirds were very satisfied with their trip to Wales on that front. Moreover, helping people get away from it all is one of the key drivers of satisfaction with Wales as a place to visit (alongside the quality of Wales' natural environment).⁹

A higher proportion of those taking day trips in Wales in 2019 were from C2DE social backgrounds than among overnight visitors (around one third compared with around one quarter).

The reopening of outdoor attractions will contribute directly or indirectly to wellbeing with positive impacts on the economy, cultural and social enrichment and health.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The Welsh Government has identified Tourism as a foundation sector, one of four, of the Welsh economy. It contributes 6% GVA to the Welsh economy. Data for 2019 demonstrates £6.0 billion of expenditure generated by tourism and in 2020 11% of businesses in Wales were in the tourism sector. This was higher in some areas with Gwynedd at 16%, Conwy at 15% and Anglesey, Pembrokeshire and Merthyr Tydfil at 14%.¹⁰

Spending on leisure day trips is around £5bn per year, and trips to visitor attractions tend to account for around 3-4% of spending (around £220m per year). Our data categorises attractions by free and paid for, however, we can estimate indoor attractions from the 2018 Attractions Survey for Wales which indicates that 38% of attractions overall are outdoors.

Respondents to the '10 questions' consultation, for the WG Tourism Action Plan published in January 2020, felt that the economic impact of tourism made some rural communities viable, providing direct and indirect employment opportunities and enabled broader businesses not directly involved in tourism to supplement their income.

Attraction spending is less predictably spread throughout the year than accommodation, and monthly data in recent years has fluctuated, but a consistent peak period appears to be April to June. Outdoor attraction businesses who missed a significant proportion of their income last year have the opportunity to maximise their income for this year.

Visitor Attractions latest consumer data / distanced travelled to attractions:

Data suggests that most UK consumers intend to go on a day out to a visitor attraction within the next three months, and over half plan to do so within the next six months. Predominantly outdoor attractions are set to attract more visitors than normal (net 11%) over the next few months, though predominantly indoor or covered

⁹ [Wales Visitor Survey 2019 – UK Staying Visitors report](#)

¹⁰ Data source: ONS Inter-departmental Business Register 2020

attractions look likely to attract net 15% fewer visitors than normal. Level of comfort visiting an indoor attraction remains low, at 2.2 out of 4.

The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions claims that around a quarter of the attraction visiting market say they will visit a theme park, with similar numbers intending to visit historic houses or sites, zoos and farm attractions, and up to a third planning to visit gardens as soon as they are able to, and 10% claim to have already visited a country park or nature reserve. There appears to be slightly more confidence in visiting outdoor based attractions, but since late January there has been a drop in the proportion of the market who will feel more anxious than usual about using indoor attraction facilities after re-opening, including toilets and indoor cafes.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

It is likely that the environmental impact will be neutral. The easements proposed are likely to result in more trips being taken by car. The increase in holidays within Wales would be offset by the likelihood of less air travel and thereby a reduction in emissions.

There are no obvious adaption or biodiversity impacts.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on travel that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to outdoor attractions not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

<i>Protected characteristic or group</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	Positive: Re-opening more premises providing a greater range of services and attractions will be of benefit to all age groups. Wales continues to be a popular destination for middle aged/older	Evidence set out above on wellbeing and economic impacts highlights the estimated representation of this group as visitors and in the workforce. Evidence from the National Survey of Wales shows that participating in	Welsh Government has adopted a collaborative approach to developing guidance on re-opening sectors/services/facilities with stakeholders and industry. Therefore, comprehensive guidance to support safe implementation of measures is available for those areas where

	<p>travellers and for those with disabilities. The age profile of holiday visitors to Wales is similar to GB as a whole with a skew towards middle age and older visitors. Younger people especially under 25s make up a relatively small proportion of overnight domestic holiday trips within GB as a whole, although Wales has a higher share of holiday trips taken in GB with children in the party reaching 13 % in 2018, compared to 10% share of holidays without children in party. 41% of overnight holiday trips taken by GB residents in Wales have children in their party with 2.6 million trips in 2018, many of these will be holidays by families living in Wales.</p> <p>The guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses states that restrictions for</p>	<p>volunteering decreases the likelihood of loneliness (11% of volunteers were lonely, compared with 19% of people who were not volunteers).</p>	<p>restrictions have been eased and will be prepared as appropriate for other premises as preparations are made for them to re-open.</p> <p>The Welsh Government’s “Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return advises that organisations consider the rights of those with protected characteristics and how they will be able to continue to access venue / services safely and requests them to consider the age and clinical vulnerability of people in your workforce when thinking about Covid-19 related risk, This is reiterated in the guidance for tourism and hospitality businesses and the associated checklist.</p>
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	<p>older and clinically vulnerable members of society being advised to continue to shield will also have an impact on how organisations are able to address reopening.</p> <p>In terms of employees the share of employment in tourism is substantially higher for people aged 16-24. So measures could have beneficial distributional consequences for the young should it aid in the preservation of jobs and increasing household incomes for those who work in the sector (i.e. by receiving their full salary as they are transferred off furlough).</p> <p>Destinations and venues may also be able to provide valuable work experience for young people.</p>		
<i>Disability (think about</i>	Positive: 24% of overnight trips	As more premises re-open, from community	The Welsh Government’s “Culture and heritage

<i>different types of disability)</i>	taken in Wales include someone in the party with a disability or other impairment in their party - slightly above the level for GB as a whole (20%).	centres to attractions, disabled people should benefit from being able to access a greater range of services and other opportunities. This will help to reduce loneliness and isolation; provide more access to support; and generally promote wellbeing.	<p>destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return and that provided to tourism and hospitality businesses notes that organisations should consider the rights of those with protected characteristics in terms of accessing venues or services. This is also included in the checklist for tourism businesses.</p> <p>e.g. to inform them of any changes to booking procedures or how the destination will assist people with disabilities so that they can continue to access the venue in a safe way.</p> <p>e.g. providing additional information to visually impaired visitors in advance of visits regarding changed access to buildings or sites and new and more complex visitor routes and generally by making all visitor information accessible</p> <p>The guidance also states that employers have statutory obligations towards disabled workers and must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that they are not put at a disadvantage.</p>
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning)</i>	Unlikely to have an impact. A short evidence search was	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment	

<i>and Transgender people)</i>	undertaken and there is no available, relevant secondary evidence or proxy data on the travel experiences and behaviour of this group.	As more premises open, people should generally benefit from more opportunities for safe social interaction and opportunities to access services, which will help to reduce loneliness and isolation; provide more access to support; and generally promote wellbeing.	
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	Re-opening more businesses such as tourist attractions will provide a greater range of activities which mothers/carers may be able to take young children to enjoy.	As more premises open, they will generally benefit from more opportunities for safe social interaction and opportunities to access services, which will help to reduce loneliness and isolation; provide more access to support; and generally promote wellbeing.	<p>The Welsh Government’s “Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return advises that organisations consider the rights of those with protected characteristics and how they will be able to continue to access your venue / services safely.</p> <p>The Guidance for tourism and hospitality business highlights that risk assessments are a legal requirement for pregnant women, no matter the size of the business and that employers have a statutory duty towards new or expectant mothers.</p>

<p><i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i></p>	<p>Neutral as visitors.</p> <p>Positive: In terms of employees, the share of employment in tourism is substantially higher for people with BAME backgrounds and therefore, as more relevant businesses are allowed to re-open they should help the preservation of jobs and increase household incomes for those who work in the sector (i.e. by receiving their full salary as they are transferred off furlough).</p>	<p>Data was pooled from 2016-2018 from the GBTS and GBDVS surveys to understand any differences in motivations between white and BAME visitors to Wales from within Great Britain. For overnight visitors, the main motivations to travel followed a similar pattern with white and BAME visitors mainly travelling for holiday/pleasure/leisure (63% compared to 54%) followed by visiting family and relatives (26% compared to 28%) and then business travel (8% compared to 12%). The most frequent reason for day visits for both white and BAME visitors were visiting friends and family (23% compared to 19%).</p>	<p>Consistent and clear messaging needs to be maintained reminding BAME people of the risks that COVID-19 poses.</p> <p>The Welsh Government’s “Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return advises that organisations consider the rights of those with protected characteristics and how they will be able to continue to access venues/services safely.</p> <p>The guidance also advises the use of simple, clear and accessible messaging to explain guidelines, with consideration of groups whose first language may not be Welsh or English.</p> <p>The tourism guidance states that to treat employees fairly steps should be taken to understand, involve and take into account the particular circumstances of those with protected characteristics. This is also included in the associated checklist.</p> <p>It also requires that the risk assessment pays particular regard to whether the people doing the work are especially vulnerable to COVID19 and to put in place steps to protect them.</p>
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<p><i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i></p>	<p>Unlikely to have an impact.</p>	<p>Data on religion of visitors to tourist attraction not collected via official surveys. A short evidence search was undertaken and there is no available, relevant secondary evidence or proxy data on the travel experiences and behaviour of this group.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government's "Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return advises that organisations consider the rights of those with protected characteristics and how they will be able to continue to access your venue / services safely.</p> <p>The tourism guidance states that to treat employees fairly steps should be taken to understand, involve and take into account the particular circumstances of those with protected characteristics. This is also included in the associated checklist.</p> <p>It also states that the steps that will usually need to be taken include ensuring you do not have an unjustifiable negative impact on some groups compared to others, for example those with religious commitments.</p>
<p><i>Sex / Gender</i></p>	<p>Typically, tourism employs more women than men.</p> <p>Therefore, as more relevant businesses are allowed to re-open they should help the preservation of jobs and increase household incomes for those who work in the</p>	<p>Opportunities to return to employment will help reduce anxieties associated with lockdown including financial worries.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government's "Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return advises that organisations consider the rights of those with protected characteristics and how they will be able to continue to access your venue / services safely.</p> <p>The tourism guidance states that to treat</p>

	sector (i.e. by receiving their full salary as they are transferred off furlough).		<p>employees fairly steps should be taken to understand, involve and take into account the particular circumstances of those with protected characteristics. This is also included in the associated checklist.</p> <p>It also states that steps that will usually need to be taken include ensuring that you do not have an unjustifiable negative impact on some groups compared to others, for example those with caring responsibilities.</p>
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	<p>Proxy information is available via research into LGBT visitors to Scotland¹¹. It is assumed that these findings would also be applicable to Wales. The influences on taking a trip to Scotland are similar for LGBT visitors as with other visitors. However, they also have to think about a range of other factors not necessarily always important to non-LGBT travellers. These often include how welcome they</p>	<p>In respect of tourism, in a survey by ‘VisitScotland’, perceptions of LGBT friendly destinations around the world, the UK was ranked 12 out of 15 spontaneously mentioned destinations.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government’s “Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return advises that organisations consider the rights of those with protected characteristics and how they will be able to continue to access your venue / services safely.</p> <p>The tourism guidance states that to treat employees fairly steps should be taken to understand, involve and take into account the particular circumstances of those with protected characteristics. This is also included in the associated checklist.</p>

¹¹ Visit Scotland (2014). LGBT Research. <https://www.visitscotland.org/binaries/content/assets/dot-org/pdf/research-papers/lgbt-topic-paper-july-2014.pdf>

	<p>would be at certain destinations, how they would be treated at their accommodation and even how safe they would be walking down the street; all of which are fundamental considerations that influence destination choices for LGBT visitors. In terms of perceptions of LGBT friendly destinations around the world, the UK was ranked 12 out of 15 spontaneously mentioned destinations. Whilst the perception of being welcome in Scotland is quite high among Scottish LGBT visitors (82%), there is still room for improvement among LGBT individuals from the rest of the UK (67%) and abroad (68%).</p>		
<p><i>Marriage and civil partnership</i></p>	<p>No differential impact identified</p>	<p>As more premises open, couples should generally benefit from more opportunities for safe social interaction and opportunities to access services, which will should promote wellbeing.</p>	<p>The tourism guidance states that to treat employees fairly steps should be taken to understand, involve and take into account the particular circumstances of those with protected characteristics. This is</p>

			also included in the associated checklist.
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	Positive: Will provide increased opportunities to engage in a range of different activities and provide opportunities for more social interaction for young people.	The survey ' Coronavirus and Me ' of approx. 23,000 children and young people in Wales provides some insight into their experiences of the coronavirus pandemic and their reactions, hopes and concerns for the future (Article 12, UNCRC).	No mitigation required.
Low-income households	The National Survey for Wales 2018/19 found that 21% of respondees would like a holiday away from home (for at least a week not staying at relatives) but cannot afford it. This is likely to be exacerbated with financial constraints at this time. Attractions and day visits may provide an alternative for some.		Attractions that are local and/or free entry will be more accessible to low income households who may be unable to travel far from their home. Welsh Government guidance on reopening cultural and heritage destinations and venues advises making provision to allow bookings from people who do not have access to the Internet.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The opening of outdoor attractions supports the requirement that all children and young people have a right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of activities. Outdoor attractions form part of the provision of experiences and facilities that will be family-orientated that will maximise the outcomes that can be delivered for children and young people.

Welsh Language

There are 127,000 people directly employed in the visitor economy - around 9% of the workforce. The economy is integral to creating the social conditions where Welsh speakers can stay in Welsh-speaking communities, or return to those communities. Many predominantly Welsh-speaking areas are highly dependent on tourism for income and employment. A high percentage of tourism businesses are located in Welsh-speaking areas – for example over a third of tourism accommodation businesses are located in local authority areas where more than 40% of the population speak Welsh as a first language

Welsh speaking communities will benefit from the continuing operation of tourism attractions which in turn will help create and safeguard employment, potentially encouraging Welsh speakers to stay and work there, and thus maintain the viability of the language.

The Welsh Government Guidance “Culture and Heritage venues: guidance for a phased return” advises that organisations consider how you will continue to comply with Welsh language duties when implementing any changes in your activities / service.

iv. Outdoor Hospitality

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Economic significance of sector

According to ONS data, the whole of the *Food and Beverage Service* sector contributed £1.3billion of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy in 2018, equivalent to 2% total GVA for the same year. In 2019 using Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) data, there were an estimated **85,500** people directly employed in the 'Hospitality - Pubs, Cafes and Restaurants' sector in Wales, **6.7%** of total employment.¹²

The hospitality sector is also fundamental to the foundation economy. Local companies often source food and drink from local suppliers. There is a clear knock on impact of the closure of the hospitality sector on the food and drink supply sector – for example, 50% of milk that is supplied by farmers generally goes to the hospitality sector. Although there has been a 15% uplift in the domestic consumption this does not make up for the drop from hospitality. Welsh Government has had to step in to support farmers as a result. Analysis from Cardiff University (2010) and The Scottish Government (2019)¹³ helps give an indicative estimate for indirect (supply chain) employment of between 6,700 and 8,100 additional people, with a similar range (6,500 to 7,600) of employment attributable to induced (spending) effects, although these numbers should be treated with caution. In total, direct,

¹² Defined 2-digit SIC2007 code (56) Food and Beverage service activities i.e. restaurants, cafes, takeaway food, pubs / bars, clubs, and event catering

¹³ Using 2007, Type I /II employment multiplier of 1.11 and 1.20, respectively, for the 'hotels, bars and restaurants' sector in Wales ([here](#)) and 2016 Type I/II employment multiplier of 1.09 and 1.20, respectively for the 'food & beverage services' sector in Scotland ([here](#)).

indirect and induced employment in the sector could therefore represent around 87,500 jobs.

In 2019, 22% of domestic leisure trips of 3+ hours involved going out for a meal, and for 9% of all visits (13.5 million trips out, with associated spend of £500m) this was the main reason for the trip. 19% involved going on a night out to a pub or club, and for 10% of all visits (15.2 million trips out, with associated spend of £449m) this was the main reason for the trip. Associated spending includes all parts of the leisure trip, and data for expenditure on eating and drinking in particular is not available. For overnight trips to Wales, direct spending on eating and drinking out during 2019 was £428m, 28% of the total trip cost, on average.¹⁴

Food and drink are core to the tourism experience and recent consumer research shows lack of food and drink facilities to be key barrier to travel and days out this year. The Wales Visitor Survey 2019¹⁵ found that 83% of UK staying visitors and 59% of UK day visitors ate out during their trip in Wales. The BDRC UK Consumer Tracker (22-26 March)¹⁶ found that that among those who were 'not very confident' about travelling this Spring, the leading factors were 'restrictions on travel from government' and 'fewer opportunities to eat/drink out' (40% mentioned this). The ALVA Attractions Recovery Tracker last year (Wave 3, 9-12 June 2020)¹⁷ found that 21% of consumers would not visit an attraction if the café or food/drink outlet was closed, second only to toilet facilities in terms of importance.

General economic impacts

Annual UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 9.9% in 2020. Accommodation and Food Service activities saw a 44% fall in output during 2020, Arts Entertainment and Recreation saw a 26% fall, though food and beverage service activities showed a strong bounce-back during August 2020.

The ONS' Business Impacts of Covid-19 Survey (BICS) provides insights to the effects of restrictions across the UK on the broad *Accommodation and Food Service Activities* sector.¹⁸ Along with *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* it is one of the areas of the UK economy that has been most severely impacted by the health pandemic and associated restrictions; in late March less than half (46%) of UK accommodation and food service businesses were trading, lower than almost all other industries, and compared with three quarters of UK businesses overall¹⁹. As expected these two sectors also reported having the most significant drops in business turnover, with over two thirds of businesses in both sectors reporting that their turnover had decreased.

¹⁴ Source: GBTS, 2019. Internal analysis

¹⁵ [Wales Visitor Survey 2019](#)

¹⁶ COVID-19 Consumer Weekly Tracker ([Week 5, 15-19 June](#))

¹⁷ ALVA Attractions Recovery Tracker [Wave 3: 9-12 June](#)

¹⁸ Covering the period 18 May to 31 May.

¹⁹ The percentage of businesses in the UK reporting that they were continuing to trade was 46% for the Accommodation and Food Services sector and 63% for the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector.

The nature of pubs, cafes, and restaurants is that much of the demand (and associated revenues) lost since restrictions were put in place may potentially be lost and not recovered once restrictions are eased. Forgone consumption in this sector is unlikely to build up and be released (pent-up demand) in ways that are conceivable for other sectors that may sell goods and/or services.

Employment and Income Effects

Many companies are utilising the UK Government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to furlough staff or other forms of support. The CJRS ensures that should workers be furloughed that the UK Government will guarantee 80% of their normal salaried income (with employers allowed to top up at their discretion). The scheme will come to a full close in September. In the BICS survey for 8 to 21 March, 19% of UK workers were on furlough, but Accommodation and food services and Arts, entertainment and recreation were the two worst affected industries, reporting 51% and 58% of their workers on full or partial furlough respectively.

For many in Wales the Covid-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on their household incomes. Survey evidence suggests that the 20% of people are in a worse financial situation as a result of the coronavirus, while 16% report being better off.²⁰ Concerns have been raised that the coronavirus is having a detrimental impact on the finances of poorer households, particularly those whose members work in shutdown sectors. These households are less likely to be able to reduce their spending significantly as a result of coronavirus in the same way that richer households will be able to, meaning they are more likely to be financing their spending during restrictions using savings (which may be limited) and accumulating debt.²¹ Those with lower incomes have been more likely to see their income reduced, and lower-paid workers have been more likely than those on higher pay to have been furloughed or lost their jobs.²²

Workforce

The workforces of both areas of the economy tend to be disproportionately lower educated, younger, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers, and command salaries significantly below the Welsh average (median) – many of these are groups that typically experience the worst persistent impacts on their health, earnings, and employment potential as a result of economic downturns.

Supply chain / value of hospitality to Welsh economy

In 2018 the whole of the food and beverage service sector was worth £1.3billion of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy, while other personal service activities (which would include many close contact businesses classed within personal care) was worth £800million. This was equivalent to 2% and 1.2% respectively of all GVA for that same year. While internal UK market goods flow

²⁰ Public Health Wales (2021) Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures: Week 48: 1 – 7 March 2021.

²¹ Bangham & Leslie (2020) Rainy days: An audit of household wealth and the initial effects of the coronavirus crisis on saving and spending in Great Britain. Resolution Foundation.

²² Resolution Foundation: [Incomes, savings and spending through the coronavirus crisis](#) November 2020

statistics are not available, Welsh retailers will in many instances be buying produce and manufactured goods directly from Welsh firms, so there are likely to be supply chain benefits to increased levels of economic activity being permitted in the sector – however quantifying that impact is not possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Pubs, cafes, and restaurants are all areas which require employees and consumers to travel to business premises to operate. While the Welsh Government continues to promote active travel as an alternative to other forms of travel throughout the coronavirus pandemic and beyond, opening up the sector will almost certainly increase the reasons for members of the public to travel by private vehicle (especially so given restraints to effective public transport capacity). While no forecasts are available as to what the knock on effect will be to air quality it can be expected to have a negative impact when compared to recent months, in which air quality is believed to have improved.

ENABLER INTERDEPENDENCIES

Childcare

Welsh Government analysis suggests that there are 11,400 adults employed within the pubs and restaurants sector who have children aged 16 and under. At present we do not have any analysis which allows us to understand how many of these may need formal childcare arrangements in place in order to return to work.

Transport

Data from the 2014/15 National Survey of Wales records the mode of transport people used to travel to pubs, cafes, etc. It showed that (non-exclusively) 47% of people used a car as a usual form of travel to pubs, cafes, and restaurants, 43% walked, and 8% used buses, and 9% used taxis. This raises a potential issue that needs consideration, which is around the potential risk of an increase in drink driving offenses should people refrain or not be permitted to use taxis (due to distancing rules) after drinking alcohol. There is also potential for increased anti-social behaviour and public order issues from excessive alcohol consumption presenting issues for train/bus staff and taxi/PHV drivers.

Based on limited re-opening of outdoor services only initially, early indications are that around a third of hospitality businesses will re-open, so it seems unlikely that there will be a significant impact on public transport. However, we will give further consideration to these issues through the working group established to take forward the detailed arrangements for re-opening in advance of a return to full service (i.e. indoor and outdoor).

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impact Assessment

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on travel that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to outdoor places not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<p>Positive: Younger cohorts of the population are significantly more likely to work within this sector in Wales than older cohorts, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme. This cohort currently represents the age group most at risk from an economic downturn.</p> <p>Negative: The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting Covid-19 increases with age, which should be considered for both staff and customers of the sector.</p>	<p>Analysis by Welsh Government of Annual Population Survey (APS) data for 2019 shows that 46% of workers in pubs, cafes, and restaurants in Wales are under the age of 25 (while this age group only represents 12% of workforce).</p>	<p>Mitigations that the sector have been asked to implement and limited reopening in first instance are aimed at reducing the risk of transmission for all groups; customers and staff.</p> <p>Risk assessments that businesses need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</p>
<i>Disability (think about</i>	<p>Positive: Disabled population in Wales represent a slightly</p>	<p>Analysis of APS data for 2019 suggests that disabled people are</p>	<p>Welsh Government are aware of potential issues and are</p>

<i>different types of disability)</i>	higher share of employees within this T&H sector than they do in the workforce as a whole, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.	more represented in this sector in Wales, with 19% of the workforce being classified as disabled (this group represents 15% of the wider workforce).	engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment. Risk assessments that businesses need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate impacts on certain groups.
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	No specific differential impacts identified.	N/A	N/A
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	Negative: Planned reopening of the sector may result in space being used to increase effective outdoor capacity. It will be important to ensure that this does not create hazardous environments for parents with young children or pushchairs.	N/A	Welsh Government are aware of potential issues and are engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment.
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	Positive: BAME population more likely to work within this sector in Wales than white population, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 12% of workers in pubs, cafes, and restaurants in Wales are BAME (while this group only represents 5% of the Welsh workforce).	Mitigations that the sector have been asked to implement and limited reopening in first instance are aimed at reducing the risk of transmission for all groups; customers and staff.

	<p>household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.</p> <p>Negative: BAME groups may be disproportionately at risk of negative health outcomes should they contract Covid-19, which should be considered for both staff and customers of the sector.</p>		<p>Risk assessments that businesses will need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</p>
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No specific differential impact identified.	N/A	N/A
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	Positive: proportion of sector employees who are women slightly higher than for Welsh workforce as a whole.	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 50% of workers in Wales within pubs, cafes, and restaurants are female, while women represent 47% of the total Welsh workforce.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No specific differential impact identified.	N/A	N/A
<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	No specific differential impact identified.	N/A	N/A
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	Negative: Adults employed within pubs, cafes, and restaurants could have childcare responsibilities. Traditional forms of childcare may have been disrupted by current lockdown restrictions.	Welsh Government analysis of 2018 Annual Population Survey data suggests that 11,400 adults employed within the pubs and restaurants sector have children under the age of 16.	The Welsh Government has eased restrictions on childcare sector with a view to easing the pressures on families who may have adults who need to return to physical premises to work.

<i>Low-income households</i>	Positive: Allowing members of this sector to return to work has the capacity to mitigate job losses	<p>Provisional data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provides estimates for hourly and weekly gross pay by 2-digit SIC codes in Wales. For Food and Beverage Service Activities (SIC code 56) median gross hourly pay was £8.28 - £3.91 lower than the Welsh median for all employee jobs of £12.19. For weekly gross pay in this sector the median is £197.30, approximately £243.50 lower than the Welsh median.</p> <p>Using the same data at least 80% of employees in Food and Beverage Service Activities are estimated to have lower gross hourly pay than the Welsh median.</p>	No specific negative impacts from proposal.
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Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone’s right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
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The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	Positive: allowing Pubs, Cafes, and Restaurants to reopen will facilitate the return to work of many employees within the sector who currently could be earning below the National Living and Minimum Wages due to receiving 80% of their pre-crisis income.	Income data from Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings shows that workers in this sector earn significantly below the average (median) Welsh wage and many are likely to be earning less than the National Living/Minimum wage as a result of being furloughed.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The opening of outdoor hospitality supports the requirement that all children and young people have a right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of activities. Outdoor hospitality form part of the provision of experiences and facilities that will be family-orientated that will maximise the outcomes that can be delivered for children and young people.

Welsh Language

There are 127,000 people directly employed in the visitor economy - around 9% of the workforce. The economy is integral to creating the social conditions where Welsh speakers can stay in Welsh-speaking communities, or return to those communities. Many predominantly Welsh-speaking areas are highly dependent on tourism for income and employment. A high percentage of tourism businesses are located in Welsh-speaking areas – for example over a third of tourism accommodation businesses are located in local authority areas where more than 40% of the population speak Welsh as a first language.

Welsh speaking communities will benefit from the continuing operation of hospitality businesses which in turn will help create and safeguard employment, potentially encouraging Welsh speakers to stay and work there, and thus maintain the viability of the language.

v. Outdoor Wedding Receptions and other life events

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Economic significance of sector

According to ONS data, the whole of the *Food and Beverage Service* sector, forming part of the wider supply chain for weddings and similar events, contributed £1.3billion

of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy in 2018, equivalent to 2% total GVA for the same year. In 2019 using Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) data, there were an estimated 85,500 people directly employed in the 'Hospitality - Pubs, Cafes and Restaurants' sector in Wales, 6.7% of total employment.²³

The wider hospitality sector is also fundamental to the foundation economy. Local companies within the wedding and events industry often use suppliers which source food and drink from local suppliers. There is a clear knock on impact of the closure of the hospitality sector on the food and drink supply sector – for example, 50% of milk that is supplied by farmers generally goes to the hospitality sector. Although there has been a 15% uplift in the domestic consumption this does not make up for the drop from hospitality. Welsh Government has had to step in to support farmers as a result. Analysis from Cardiff University (2010) and The Scottish Government (2019)²⁴ helps give an indicative estimate for indirect (supply chain) employment of between 6,700 and 8,100 additional people, with a similar range (6,500 to 7,600) of employment attributable to induced (spending) effects, although these numbers should be treated with caution. In total, direct, indirect and induced employment in the sector could therefore represent around 87,500 jobs.

Size of sector and its supply chain in Wales

The sector is made up of a wide mix of venues that include country house wedding venues, barn venues, stately homes, castles (some CADW owned), hotels, registry offices, places of worship, attractions and museums, golf courses, events venues, sports venues, restaurants and pubs, city venues such as social clubs, outdoor venues and parks.

In consultation with the sector, our best estimate is that there are circa 600 registered businesses in Wales that hold a valid licence to host and conduct marriages. Beyond that the supply chain that supports the wedding sector is vast and includes Registrars, Venues, Catering, Cakes, Flowers, Photos & Videos, Retail, Stationery, Bands/ DJs, Cars/ Transport, Marquee, Props & rentals, Hair & Make-up, Travel & Tourism, Support Staff, Wedding Trade Shows, Media Platforms. It is anticipated that a minimum of 10 businesses supply and support each single wedding at a venue.

Weddings and other special personal events drive tourism through guests travelling to attend. 2019 saw 2.8 million day visits and 96,000 overnight trips in Wales made by those attending a special personal event (e.g. wedding, christening, graduation), resulting in a total spend by those visitors, including accommodation and all other costs, of £430m.²⁵

²³ Defined 2-digit SIC2007 code (56) Restaurants and mobile food service activities and 563 Beverage serving activities.

²⁴ Using 2007, Type I /II employment multiplier of 1.11 and 1.20, respectively, for the 'hotels, bars and restaurants' sector in Wales ([here](#)) and 2016 Type I/II employment multiplier of 1.09 and 1.20, respectively for the 'food & beverage services' sector in Scotland ([here](#)).

²⁵ [GBTS and GBDVS data in Regional and Local Profiles 2017-2019](#)

Key facts²⁶:

Value of sector in Wales

Average total cost of Wedding spend in Wales:	£17,236	
Average spend on venues in Wales:		£5,283
Number of Weddings held in Wales in 2019:	13,197	
Number of licensed wedding venues in Wales:	578	

Number of WALES Weddings:

13,197 per year

Approx 10,420 weddings postponed in 2020

74% of wedding businesses report losses of between 76% and 100% of their turnover since the first lockdown.

Approx Wedding Industry Workers - WALES²⁷:

2,580 businesses

18,920 workers

11,825 people on-the-day + 7,095 in support functions including supply chain

Workforce

The workforces in hospitality and tourism tend to be disproportionately lower educated, younger, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers, and command salaries significantly below the Welsh average (median) – many of these are groups that typically experience the worst persistent impacts on their health, earnings, and employment potential as a result of economic downturns.

Supply chain / value of hospitality to Welsh economy and wider tourism & hospitality supply chain:

In 2018 the whole of the food and beverage service sector was worth £1.3billion of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy. This was equivalent to 2% and 1.2% respectively of all GVA for that same year. While internal UK market goods flow statistics are not available, Welsh retailers will in many instances be buying produce and manufactured goods directly from Welsh firms, so there are likely to be supply chain benefits to increased levels of economic activity being permitted in the sector – however quantifying that impact is not possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

No significant environmental impacts have been identified as a result of restrictions in this area, and none are anticipated as a result of the proposed easement.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

²⁶ UK Weddings Taskforce Survey of over 3000 wedding businesses Dec 24th 2020 – 12th Jan 2021

²⁷ Industry intelligence

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on celebrating life events that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to regulated spaces not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<p>Positive: Younger cohorts of the population are significantly more likely to work within this sector in Wales than older cohorts, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme. This cohort currently represents the age group most at risk from an economic downturn.</p> <p>Negative: The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting Covid-19 increases with age, which should be considered for both staff and customers of the sector.</p>	<p>Analysis by Welsh Government of Annual Population Survey (APS) data for 2019 shows that 46% of workers in pubs, cafes, and restaurants in Wales are under the age of 25 (while this age group only represents 12% of workforce).</p>	<p>Mitigations that the sector have been asked to implement and limited reopening in first instance are aimed at reducing the risk of transmission for all groups; customers and staff.</p> <p>Risk assessments that businesses need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</p>
<i>Disability (think about</i>	Positive: Disabled population in Wales	Analysis of APS data for 2019 suggests that	Welsh Government are aware of potential

<i>different types of disability)</i>	represent a slightly higher share of employees within the wider Tourism & Hospitality industries than they do in the workforce as a whole, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.	disabled people are more represented in this sector in Wales, with 19% of the workforce being classified as disabled (this group represents 15% of the wider workforce).	issues and are engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment. Risk assessments that businesses need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate impacts on certain groups.
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	<i>No specific differential impacts identified</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	Negative: Planned reopening of the sector may result in regulated settings being used to increase effective outdoor capacity. It will be important to ensure that this does not create hazardous environments for parents with young children or pushchairs.	N/A	Welsh Government are aware of potential issues and are engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment.
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum</i>	Positive: BAME population more likely to work within Tourism & Hospitality in Wales than white population, therefore opening sector could have positive	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 12% of workers in pubs, cafes, and restaurants in Wales are BAME (while this group only represents	Mitigations that the sector have been asked to implement and limited reopening in first instance are aimed at reducing the risk of transmission

<i>seekers and Refugees)</i>	<p>distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.</p> <p>Negative: BAME groups may be disproportionately at risk of negative health outcomes should they contract Covid-19, which should be considered for both staff and customers of the sector.</p>	5% of the Welsh workforce).	<p>for all groups; customers and staff.</p> <p>Risk assessments that businesses will need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups</p>
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	Reopening Places of Worship Task and Finish group and the Ceremonies Group have met regularly and advised on the guidance for life event ceremonies such as funerals, baptisms and bar mitzvahs.	Allowing a celebration/reception after a life event ceremony will allow the family and individuals (albeit in a limited way) to have the event they had planned.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	Positive: proportion of sector employees who are women slightly higher than for Welsh workforce as a whole.	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 50% of workers in Wales within pubs, cafes, and restaurants are female, while women represent 47% of the total Welsh workforce.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No specific differential impact identified.	N/A	N/A

<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	Reopening Places of Worship Task and Finish group has met regularly and advised on the guidance for the solemnisation of marriages and formation of civil partnership. The Hospitality sector which includes the Wales Weddings Venues stakeholder group have also met regularly and have contributed with data and analysis on size and impact on the sector.	Allowing a celebration/ reception after a marriage or civil partnership will allow couples to have the wedding day (albeit in a limited way) they had planned.	The Human Right is to get married, however, by allowing receptions in some instances and not others could be perceived as treating religious & civil ceremonies differently.
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	Negative: Adults employed within venues, pubs, cafes, and restaurants could have childcare responsibilities with the sector. Traditional forms of childcare may have been disrupted by current lockdown restrictions.	Welsh Government analysis of 2018 Annual Population Survey data suggests that 11,400 adults employed within the pubs and restaurants sector have children under the age of 16.	The Welsh Government has eased restrictions on childcare sector with a view to easing the pressures on families who may have adults who need to return to physical premises to work.
<i>Low-income households</i>	Positive: Allowing members of this sector to return to work has the capacity to mitigate job losses	Provisional data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provides estimates for hourly and weekly gross pay by 2-digit SIC codes in Wales. For Food and Beverage Service Activities (SIC code 56) median gross hourly pay was £8.28 - £3.91 lower than the Welsh median for all employee jobs of £12.19. For weekly gross pay in this sector	No specific negative impacts from proposal.

		<p>the median is £197.30, approximately £243.50 lower than the Welsh median.</p> <p>Using the same data at least 80% of employees in Food and Beverage Service Activities are estimated to have lower gross hourly pay than the Welsh median.</p>	
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Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone’s right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	Positive: allowing Venues, Pubs, Cafes, and Restaurants to reopen will facilitate the return to work of many employees within the sector who currently could be earning below the National Living and Minimum Wages due to receiving 80% of their pre-crisis income.	Income data from Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings shows that workers in this sector earn significantly below the average (median) Welsh wage and many are likely to be earning less than the National Living/Minimum wage as a result of being furloughed.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
Article 12 protects the right of men and women of marriageable age	Although couples have been able to marry or form a civil partnership in all venues that are approved to hold a	Allowing receptions/celebrations will allow couples to have the day they had	No specific negative impacts identified.

to marry and to start a family.	ceremony many have chosen not to proceed until they are able to celebrate the event with friends and family.	planned albeit with continuing restrictions	
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United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The opening of outdoor wedding receptions supports the requirement that all children and young people have a right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of activities. Weddings form part of the provision of experiences and facilities that will be family-orientated that will maximise the outcomes that can be delivered for children and young people.

Welsh Language

There are 127,000 people directly employed in the visitor economy - around 9% of the workforce. The economy is integral to creating the social conditions where Welsh speakers can stay in Welsh-speaking communities, or return to those communities. Many predominantly Welsh-speaking areas are highly dependent on tourism and hospitality for income and employment. A high percentage of tourism and hospitality businesses are located in Welsh-speaking areas – for example over a third of tourism accommodation businesses are located in local authority areas where more than 40% of the population speak Welsh as a first language.

Welsh speaking communities will benefit from the continuing operation of hospitality businesses which in turn will help create and safeguard employment, potentially encouraging Welsh speakers to stay and work there, and thus maintain the viability of the language.

vi. Gyms and indoor facilities

WELLBEING IMPACTS

In October 2020 Sport Wales carried out a second survey into people’s sport and physical activity habits. The results showed the following areas of note on the impact lockdowns are having on physical and mental wellbeing.

- There appears to be a growing recognition of the importance of exercising regularly, and more people are now exercising to manage their mental and physical health. The same percentage (62%) of people as in May – when the first survey was carried out – were exercising to support their mental health.
- People’s exercise regimes are still being impacted but not as severely as they were during the national lockdown. People are now exercising more away from home.

- The survey showed that many people's activity levels had returned to pre-pandemic levels. However, women are more likely to say they are doing less activity than before the pandemic, whilst men appear to be doing more. 40% of women disagree with the statement that they have more time now to be physically active.
- Similar inequalities exist across socio-economic status, long-standing conditions and ill-health, and age. For example, 22% of people saying they are now doing a bit more exercise than they did before the pandemic are in the highest social grade, whilst 20% of those saying that they now do less physical activity than before the pandemic are in the lowest social grade.
- Between 20-25% of people said they had visited indoor gyms, swimming pools and sports halls. However, of those that did attend an indoor swimming or gym session in the week prior to the survey, 80% felt comfortable, showing that facilities are putting in place the measures required to make people feel safe.

There has also been considerable strength of feeling amongst consumers and business owners regarding the ongoing closures of indoor sport facilities. Since the pandemic started the Senedd's Petitions Committee has to date received 37 petitions seeking the reopening of gyms, leisure centres and fitness facilities. Several of the petitions highlight the essential role these facilities play in physical and mental wellbeing, and they were also the subject of a debate on the Senedd floor earlier this year on access to facilities for sport and physical activity during lockdowns.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

As part of a Sport Wales commissioned economic evaluation report²⁸, Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) estimated the impact of a period of lockdown and then modelled this over the course of a year. This involved periods of normality, full lockdown, tiered lockdown, and other periods where the economy was operating at a reduced capacity. To estimate the economic impact of sport in 2019, just prior to the outbreak when conditions were assumed to be 'normal', sport participation rates and spending patterns were calculated. The resulting estimation suggested that just prior to the pandemic, consumer spending continued to grow (by 7%) in volume as did GVA and jobs (each by 5%). This valued sport-related consumer spend in Wales at £1.26bn, sport related GVA at £1.195bn and estimated sport employment as 31,100 FTEs. This suggests that the growth trends found over the past 20 years looked set to continue in 2019 onwards.

All investments that resulted in growth in the recent past are now under jeopardy because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The result of this model suggests that a strict

²⁸ Kokolakis *et al.*: The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport in Wales, Sheffield Hallam University, January 2021

lockdown period can be shown to reduce consumer expenditure (-47%), GVA (-50%), and employment (-48%). This means that the economic impact of sport would be effectively halved during a strict lockdown condition.

When these lockdown conditions are coupled with recovery periods over the period of a year (in 2020), the net impact on consumer spending is far more severe for the sport sector in Wales when compared to UK consumer spending in general (-24% and -15% respectively). Consumer spending on sport in Wales has therefore reduced by an estimated £303.4m. Consumer spending on sport was reduced in some areas more than others; this is mainly due to the increase in informal sport activities such as running and cycling during lockdown, and associated online retail (e.g. admission fees decreasing by 40% vs. a 16% increase in spending on bikes).

In 2020 the UK economy is expected to have declined by 10%. At the same time sport related GVA in Wales fell by 20%, almost twice the decline in the UK. GVA in Wales is therefore estimated to have reduced by £209m. In Wales the GVA generated through spectator sports had seen the greatest reduction (-43%). Welsh Leisure and Culture Trusts continue to incur a net loss of £292,000 per month while their facilities are closed, making bankruptcies a real possibility.

It is important to note that these conditions would have been a lot worse without the initial £22.7 million investment on sport support packages, as well as other indirect packages such as the local authority hardship fund. It is estimated that without investment, sport-related GVA in Wales could have fallen by three times more than the UK economy. The voluntary sector in Wales, for example, would have seen an even greater decline without this contribution (-80% vs. -50%). In addition, 15.2 thousand FTE sport jobs would have been at risk of being lost without public support. With the end of the recovery package in March these concerns once again become live realities.

Sport is a significant economic industry for Wales. The network of micro-businesses that drive the sport economy are embedded in their communities. They add real value in terms of their ability to directly support employment as well as how they service affiliated industries. Prior to the pandemic there was a consistent growth in the influence of sport on the economic output in Wales. Whilst this has been dramatically hit, there are policy approaches which can sensibly, safely and sustainability return this economic boost to the sector. The easing of restrictions on gyms, leisure centres and fitness facilities (including community centres) would represent an important step in this regard.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

As with most other easements, removing restrictions in this area will almost certainly increase the reasons for members of the public to travel. Mobility data suggests that while travel dropped significantly when lockdown restrictions were introduced, they

have gradually increased as lockdown restrictions have been removed (although they are still, for the majority of metrics, below their pre-lockdown levels).²⁹

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on travel that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to public places not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

<i>Protected characteristic or group</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	Positive: Younger cohorts of the population are significantly more likely to work within this sector in Wales than older cohorts, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme. This cohort currently represents the age group most at risk from an economic downturn.	Analysis by Welsh Government of Annual Population Survey (APS) data for 2019 shows that 31% of workers in the sports activities sector in Wales are under the age of 25 (while this age group only represents 12% of workforce).	N/A

²⁹ Taken from Welsh Government Covid-19 Data Monitor (27/07/2020). **DATA FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
<i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i>	No differential impact identified	Analysis of APS data for 2019 suggests that disabled people represent 15% of the workforce for the Sports Activities sector (this group represents 15% of the wider workforce).	
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	No differential impact identified.		
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	No differential impact identified.		
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	No differential impact identified.	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 8% of the workforce within the Sports Activities sector are BAME, while this group represents 5% of the overall Welsh workforce.	
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No differential impact identified.		
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	No differential impacts identified.	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 42% of workers in Wales within the Sports Activities sector are female, while women represent 47% of the total Welsh workforce.	
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No differential impact identified.		

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	No differential impact identified.		
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	No differential impact identified.		
<i>Low-income households</i>	No differential impact identified.		

Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone's right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
<i>The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)</i>	No differential impact identified.	The re-opening of gyms, leisure and fitness facilities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it promotes exercise thereby promoting better mental and physical wellbeing	

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The convention has been considered in this assessment. The restrictions on gyms, leisure centres and fitness facilities could conflict with the following Articles:

- **Article 15** – Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

- **Article 31** – All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Welsh Language

The proposals are not known to have any positive or negative impacts on the Welsh Government's aim to increase the number of Welsh speakers, promote the use of the Welsh language, or to create favourable conditions for the Welsh language, as set out in **Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers**.

vii. Organised Indoor Activities

WELLBEING IMPACTS

A number of studies covering Wales and internationally show that coronavirus is having, or is likely to have, a lasting impact on the wellbeing of people³⁰. It is exacerbating feelings of anxiety, loneliness, and unhappiness in people. This is often due to a lack of contact with their peers.

The What Works Centre for Wellbeing identifies strong evidence that participatory arts, sport, and cultural activities can improve wellbeing when they bring together participants in the same physical space³¹. The restrictions for individuals associated with the Level 4 restrictions, may limit the associated benefits of participating in arts, sport and culture together.

Organised activities, and particularly sport and physical activity, plays a part in reducing loneliness and isolation, supporting a healthy and active nation, and is an integral part of the wider preventative agenda across a range of cross-government portfolio areas. There is good scientific evidence that being physically active can help us lead healthier and happier lives. Regular exercise can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, dementia, some cancers, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.

The results of surveys commissioned by Sport Wales and conducted by Savanta ComRes in May and October 2020 revealed that people are doing less physical activity at this time.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Sport and physical activity participation yields a generous return on investment in terms of the consequential benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. People playing sport and exercising regularly in the outdoors reduces their reliance on health and

³⁰ See for example

https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc_cid=c975bde8f8&mc_eid=e4236b0dbe

social services, reduces sickness levels, increases productivity and contributes to a greener Wales through active travel.

The benefits of sport and exercise are multi-dimensional. In 2019, Sport Wales published a Social Return on Investment (SROI) Report. The analysis, conducted by the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University, measured the wider contribution sport makes to Wales. The report found that:

- For every £1 invested in sport in Wales there is a return of £2.88.
- £3,428m of benefits for Welsh communities was generated from participating and volunteering in sport in 2016/17.
- A breakdown of the overall figure shows the social value of enhanced social capital is £651.47m; enhanced education is £91.15m; and reduced crime is £2.17m. The social value of improved health is £295.17m.
- Subjective wellbeing accounts for a significant proportion of the social value generated in Wales (60.6%).
- The sport industry in Wales grew by 10% to £1,142m in 2016/17. The sport sector was found to out-perform pharmaceuticals, travel, accommodation and textiles industries in Wales.
- The sporting economy contributed £1,182m in Consumer Expenditure on Sport and generated 29,700 sport-related jobs in the same year.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

As with most other easements, removing restrictions in this area will almost certainly increase the reasons for members of the public to travel. Mobility data suggests that while travel dropped significantly when lockdown restrictions were introduced, they have gradually increased as lockdown restrictions have been removed (although they are still, for the majority of metrics, below their pre-lockdown levels).³²

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on travel that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to public places not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

<i>Protected characteristic or group</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	Positive – access to organised activities has positive impact on	The risk of negative health outcomes associated with	N/A

³² Taken from Welsh Government Covid-19 Data Monitor (27/07/2020). **DATA FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

	<p>mental and physical well-being for all ages.</p> <p>Under 18 organised activities have been taking place for some time and has already had a positive impact. All ages will benefit from this change, but in particular older retired individuals of which some only have contact with other through activities such as swimming classes, and younger generations via activities such as HIT.</p>	<p>contracting Covid-19 increases with age, but these are largely mitigated through maintaining social distance and good hand hygiene</p>	
<p><i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i></p>	<p>Neutral: generally people with disabilities should be able to access and benefit from the same opportunities as others to engage in more organised activities. However, in respect of organised group activities, they could benefit more from specialised group activities where providers are able to re-commence such activities in accordance with COVID-secure requirements.</p>	<p>Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised activities is considered to be positive; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.</p>	N/A
<p><i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i></p>	<p>No major differential impact expected. However some individuals do highlight they feel safer and more motivated training in groups / organised</p>	<p>Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in organised activities is considered to be positive for</p>	N/A

	activates rather than in isolation	everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	No major differential impact expected, however it may be safer for pregnant women to train under expert supervision rather than on own.	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be	N/A

		positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	Potential for men to benefit more as they have higher participation levels in sport and in attending leisure facilities. However many females have highlighted they feel more comfortable in group activities rather than in isolation so large benefits all round.	Reduce loneliness and isolation as provides increased opportunities for safe, social interaction. Will also improve and promote physical and mental wellbeing through undertaking more activity.	N/A
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe	N/A

		social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	Under 18s and Adult organised outdoor activities already allowed. Under 18s organised indoor activity to take place from same time (03 May)	Under 18s and Adult organised outdoor activities already allowed. Under 18s organised indoor activity to take place from same time (03 May)	N/A
<i>Low-income households</i>	Positive: While evidence suggests that net levels of physical activity have not shifted significantly in Wales, there is a differential effect by socioeconomic background for adults and children. Those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds are engaged in more physical exercise than before the crisis and those from poorer socio-economic backgrounds are engaged in less. Re-enabling activity in this area will widen the scope for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to engage in physical exercise.	Sport Wales survey conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020: “There are however significant variations within certain demographic groups. There is a net increase in activity levels amongst those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds (+7 percentage points), however there is a net decrease amongst those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (-4 percentage points).” “Those from lower socio economic backgrounds appear to be experiencing the greatest reductions (LOW SES: More 23% Less 36% = -13 percentage points HIGH SES: More 28%	N/A

		Less 35% = -7 percentage points)	
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Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone’s right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

<i>Human Rights</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</i>
<i>The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing	N/A

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The convention has been considered in this assessment. The restrictions on organised indoor activities could conflict with the following Articles:

- **Article 15** – Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.
- **Article 31** – All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Welsh Language

The proposals are not known to have any positive or negative impacts on the Welsh Government's aim to increase the number of Welsh speakers, promote the use of the Welsh language, or to create favourable conditions for the Welsh language, as set out in **Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers**.

viii. Organised Indoor Activities for Children

WELLBEING IMPACTS

A number of studies covering Wales and internationally show that coronavirus is having, or is likely to have, a lasting impact on the wellbeing of children and young people³³. It is exacerbating feelings of anxiety, loneliness, and unhappiness in children and young people. This is often due to a lack of contact with their peers.

The What Works Centre for Wellbeing identifies strong evidence that participatory arts, sport, and cultural activities can improve wellbeing when they bring together participants in the same physical space³⁴. The restrictions for individuals associated with the Level 4 restrictions, may limit the associated benefits of participating in arts, sport and culture together.

Organised children's activities, and particularly sport and physical activity, plays a part in reducing loneliness and isolation, supporting a healthy and active nation, and is an integral part of the wider preventative agenda across a range of cross-government portfolio areas. There is good scientific evidence that being physically active can help us lead healthier and happier lives. Regular exercise can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, dementia, some cancers, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.

The results of a survey commissioned by Sport Wales and conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020 revealed that overall, children are doing less physical activity at this time (a net reduction of 9 percentage points) and the greatest reduction is amongst children from lower socio-economic backgrounds (-13 percentage points compared with -7 percentage points amongst children from high socio-economic backgrounds).

Whilst some youth work organisations offer sports activities many focus on other areas to support the personal, emotional and social development of young people to enable them to build their resilience. These aspects are crucially important to help counteract feelings of isolation and loneliness.

For younger children, including those born during the pandemic, they have had little if any interaction with other babies and toddlers – this could have long lasting and detrimental effects. The impact on their social and emotional development maybe

³³ See for example - <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/about/documents/play-first--supporting-childrens-social-and-emotional-wellbeing-during-and-after-lockdown.pdf>

³⁴ https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc_cid=c975bde8f8&mc_eid=e4236b0dbe

significant as well as the impact on the parent who may be finding it difficult to find help and support. Young children and their parents (usually the mother) need to socialise because it's good for them – it helps with the child's development and the parent's mental health and wellbeing. Parent and toddler groups have an important role to play – they can help point parents in the right direction for a range of other services and support if needed.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Organised children's activities are run by a variety of organisations spread across the public, private and third sectors. Many of them run on a not-for-profit basis, though there will be some larger settings which employ staff. Restarting these activities would allow those staff to return to work and come off schemes such as furlough, which only cover a portion of wages.

The benefits of sport and exercise are multi-dimensional. In 2019, Sport Wales published a Social Return on Investment (SROI) Report. The analysis, conducted by the Sport Industry Research Centre (SIRC) at Sheffield Hallam University, measured the wider contribution sport makes to Wales. As well as the economic benefits generated by professional sport activities, which are not being recommended to open as part of this review, it also found that sport had a positive impact on a range of social and health factors, creating additional social capital and alleviating pressure on public health and judicial services. Specifically the report found that:

- For every £1 invested in sport in Wales there is a return of £2.88.
- £3,428m of benefits for Welsh communities was generated from participating and volunteering in sport in 2016/17.
- A breakdown of the overall figure shows the social value of enhanced social capital is £651.47m; enhanced education is £91.15m; and reduced crime is £2.17m. The social value of improved health is £295.17m.
- Subjective wellbeing accounts for a significant proportion of the social value generated in Wales (60.6%).
- The sport industry in Wales grew by 10% to £1,142m in 2016/17. The sport sector was found to out-perform pharmaceuticals, travel, accommodation and textiles industries in Wales.
- The sporting economy contributed £1,182m in Consumer Expenditure on Sport and generated 29,700 sport-related jobs in the same year.

Physical activity participation yields a generous return on investment in terms of the consequential benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. Children playing and people exercising regularly in the outdoors reduces their reliance on health and social services, reduces sickness levels, and increases productivity. Outdoor sport and exercise within the local community contributes to a greener Wales

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The environmental impacts of allowing people to engage in outdoor activity and specifically physical activity is likely to be extremely low given that most activities are not associated with emission contributing technology. Facilities will be predominantly used locally, with no significant expected increase in emissions associated with travelling to use facilities.

As with restarting activity in other sectors, easing restrictions may theoretically increase the reasons people have for using private transportation, but whether this will have a significant impact on overall CO2 equivalent emissions or air quality is not currently known.

Increased use of outdoor spaces could also have a positive impact in terms of peoples' attitudes and perceptions of environmental public goods. This could help reinforce the benefits of environmental protection as we move out of lockdown over time.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it removes restrictions on travel that will have affected different groups in different ways. Potential negative impacts relate to the risks of adaptations being made to public places not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

<i>Protected characteristic or group</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<p>Positive – access to organised activities has positive impact on mental and physical well-being.</p> <p>Initially this relaxation is in relation to organised activities for children, including all children and young people under 18.</p> <p>For our youngest children (under 3) mixing with children of a similar age will have</p>	<p>The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting Covid-19 increases with age, but these are largely mitigated through being outdoors in sunlight, maintaining social distance and good hand hygiene.</p>	N/A

	a positive impact on socialisation.		
<i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i>	Neutral: generally children and young people with disabilities should be able to access and benefit from the same opportunities as others to engage in more organised activities held outdoors. However, in respect of organised outdoor group activities, they could benefit more from specialised group activities where providers are able to re-commence such activities in accordance with COVID-secure requirements.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	No differential impact expected.	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is	N/A

		considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	Potential for boys and young men to benefit more as they have higher participation levels in sport.	Reduce loneliness and isolation as provides increased opportunities for safe, social interaction.	N/A

	Potential for mother's to benefit more than fathers as they tend to be more likely to attend parent and baby/toddler groups.	Will also improve and promote physical and mental wellbeing through undertaking more activity.	
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	No differential impact expected.	N/A	N/A
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	<p>Positive: Access to organised activities will improve physical, mental and emotional health. It will have a positive effect on communication and socialisation.</p> <p>Exercise and sport is an important contributor to the healthy physical, psychological well-being and social development of children. Evidence suggests that children are doing less exercise in Wales now than before the pandemic. Re-enabling activity in this</p>	Children's rights have been considered as part of this assessment; and the measures providing opportunities to undertake more activity, including organised group activities (e.g. dance classes) will be positive for children and supports compliance with UNCRC articles (list)	N/A

	area will widen the scope for children and young people to engage in physical exercise (though teenage girls tend to have lower participation rates in sport so may benefit less)		
<i>Low-income households</i>	Positive: While evidence suggests that net levels of physical activity have not shifted significantly in Wales, there is a differential effect by socioeconomic background for adults and children. Those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds are engaged in more physical exercise than before the crisis and those from poorer socio-economic backgrounds are engaged in less. Re-enabling activity in this area will widen the scope for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to engage in physical exercise.	<p>Sport Wales survey conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020:</p> <p>“There are however significant variations within certain demographic groups. There is a net increase in activity levels amongst those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds (+7 percentage points), however there is a net decrease amongst those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (-4 percentage points).”</p> <p>“Those children from lower socio economic backgrounds appear to be experiencing the greatest reductions (LOW SES: More 23% Less 36% = -13 percentage points HIGH SES: More 28% Less 35% = -7 percentage points)”</p>	

Human Rights and UN Conventions

The overriding purpose of the restrictions and requirements associated with lockdown have been to protect everyone’s right to life. This has led to constraints on rights such as on private and family life and the freedom of assembly and association on justifiable health grounds. Public health is described as an acceptable reason to curtail these rights, as long as it is necessary and proportionate. Notwithstanding the ongoing constraints from lockdown in the round, this proposal in affects the following:

<i>Human Rights</i>	<i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i>	<i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i>	<i>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</i>
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The convention has been considered in this assessment. The restrictions on outdoor activities, could conflict with the following Articles:

- **Article 15** – Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.
- **Article 31** – All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Easing current restrictions on outdoor group activities would enable the Welsh Government to meet its obligations of two articles. Allowing children from more than two households to exercise together will allow us to meet our obligations under Article 15. Removing restrictions on playgrounds and outdoor group activities would enable us to meet our obligations under Article 31.

Welsh Language

The proposal does not have any identifiable negative impact on the Welsh Government's commitment to preserve and promote the Welsh Language. Within the Welsh Government's own plans to reach a million Welsh Speakers by 2050, which is set out in **Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers**, it stresses the importance of promoting the use of the Welsh language as well as increasing the population that can speak Welsh. The second theme of Cymraeg 2050 is on **Increasing the Use of Welsh**, it states: *"People need opportunities to use Welsh in a variety of situations which reflect the diversity of their lifestyles. These include opportunities within the family, in the workplace, in local activities, or in wider interest networks and communities which can span continents"*.