

# Coronavirus Restrictions Review - 15 July 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. Following [the 21 Day Review in February 2021](#), a further SIA was produced. The [latest SIA was produced following the 21 Day Review on 3 June](#).

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

This document aims to capture an assessment of the impact of the easements made or signalled during the 21 Day Review on 15 July 2021 on different demographics in Welsh society.

The emergence in December of the more infectious 'Alpha 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 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.

In England, the decreasing number of the current dominant variant first identified in Kent (the 'Alpha variant') infections has been masking the rapid increase (from low levels) of Delta variant infections. It is almost certain that the Delta variant has a significant growth rate advantage over the Alpha variant (high confidence), though there remains considerable uncertainty around the extent of this advantage.

The uncertainty regarding the growth advantage between the Alpha and Delta variants means that we are not in a position to fully move down into alert level 1 in Wales. As part of the continued cautious approach to easements adopted in Wales, the first steps towards moving from alert level 2 down to alert level 1 will start with easements predominantly relating to outdoors activities. The remaining easements required relating to indoor activities will be kept under review, but will not be considered any earlier than 21 June.

The primary easements made at the 21 Day Review on 15 July 2021 are as follows:

#### From 17 July 2021:

- The restrictions on gathering with others indoors are relaxed to allow a maximum of 6 people from up to 6 households (not including children under 11 or carers from any of these households) to gather in private dwellings and holiday accommodation.

- The restrictions on gathering with others at indoor activities and events are relaxed to allow a maximum of 200 people standing and 1,000 people seated to gather
- The restrictions preventing Ice Skating Rinks from opening are removed
- The restrictions preventing Adult Entertainment Centres from opening are removed
- The restrictions on residential educational visits is relaxed to include the provision for other out of school organisation to gather and stay overnight in consistent groups of 30 children up to the age of 18
- The restrictions on outdoor gatherings are removed, allowing any number of people to gather anywhere outdoors.

### **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 that will be made to The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) Regulations 2020 as a result of the 21 Day Review on 15 July 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' to meet indoors in private dwellings
- ii. Indoor Events
- iii. Ice Rinks
- iv. Night Clubs and Adult Entertainment Centres
- v. Residential Visits
- vi. Gathering outdoors

## **I. 'Rule of 6' to meet indoors in private dwellings**

### WELLBEING IMPACTS

There are significant negative impacts associated with restricting people socialising.

The PHW survey on health and wellbeing (21 to 27 June 2021) showed that when asked how they have felt in the last week 25% of people reported feeling lonely occasionally whilst 11% felt lonely always or often. Some 27% of people felt isolated occasionally with 10% reporting feeling this way always or often. Over this period the proportion reporting being worried about their mental health and wellbeing a lot was 14%. This is despite current restrictions allowing extended households and the rule of six in regulated settings. Allowing the rule of six indoors should help the wellbeing of those that may feel lonely or isolated, by allowing further opportunities for socialisation.

A previous wave of the PHW survey (10 to 16 May 2021) analysed the trends of selected questions about people's wellbeing over the course of the pandemic. 42% of respondents said that their mental health was worse at the time of the survey compared to before the pandemic, equivalent to over 1 million adults. Females and younger people were more likely to report that their mental health had worsened over the course of the pandemic.<sup>1</sup>

ONS also produced analysis in May 2021 looking at the impact of Coronavirus on depression in adults in the UK. 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, disabled people or those living in deprived areas were most likely to be experiencing depression.<sup>2</sup>

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

As these changes are focussed on the ability for 6 people to meet in private homes, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the economy. It could lead to people travelling further and more frequently to meet in other people's homes. This may have a marginal positive impact if it encourages people to spend more on goods and service as a result of increased socialisation. Conversely if people choose to do more activities at home rather than going out, this could have a marginal negative impact if people spend less. It is likely that both these effects will be very small and have minimal impact on economic output.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/how-are-you-doing/how-are-we-doing-in-wales-reports/week-58-report-how-are-we-doing-in-wales1/>

<sup>2</sup> [Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/people-and-work/mental-health/articles/coronavirus-and-depression-in-adults-great-britain-2021)

## 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 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.

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<i>Positive: Allowing 6 people from up to 6 different households to meet for any reason in private dwellings and in holiday accommodation will benefit those cut-off from family and friends, mitigating effects of loneliness and isolation or digital exclusion.</i>	<i>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.  People over 70 are more likely to be worried about their</i>	<i>Guidance will be issued to outline increased risks of people meeting indoors (up to 6 people from 6 households), and how to best protect against transmission (social distancing, ventilation, hygiene including hand washing).</i>

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
	<i>Negative:</i> People of all ages, but particularly older people, may be concerned about increased risks from an increase in people meeting indoors	health and the risks of contracting COVID-19, however the majority of this age group have received at least the first dose of the vaccine, so could alleviate some of the concerns.	Continued guidance for those clinically extremely vulnerable to ensure additional risks are considered when indoors.
<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 indoors <i>in private dwellings and in holiday accommodation</i>	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

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	<p><i>Positive:</i> No specific differential impacts households</p> <p><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.</p>		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 in different ways, which could be mitigated by relaxation.	Surveys indicate females are more likely to be self-isolating, very worried about their mental health, feeling anxious and feeling isolated. More females say their sleeping is negatively affected during lockdown	No specific additional mitigations are proposed
<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</i>	<i>Positive:</i> Children under the age of 11 are excluded from the	The top two issues for children (12-18) relating to restrictions	N/A

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
<i>up to the age of 18</i>	six people meeting restriction.	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)	
<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:

<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</b>
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference	<i>Positive:</i> removing meeting other people indoors restrictions will facilitate family relationships by limiting	The restrictions were based on public health grounds and the assessment and review process seeks	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.

<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</b>
from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	restrictions placed by the government. Remaining restrictions on indoors and numbers of households continue to be proportionate on public health grounds.	to lift these as soon as they are no longer proportionate. This process has led to the proposal to lift this restriction.	

### *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. Indoor Events**

### 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 people<sup>3</sup>. 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 space<sup>4</sup>.

Attending or participating in events 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.

The UK COVID-19 Consumer Sentiment Tracker asks UK residents which types of activities they are more or less likely to do compared to normal over the next few months. The latest data shows increasing intended engagement levels with 'entertainment, catering and events' (e.g. restaurants, cinema, festivals etc.) as lockdown restrictions are lifted. Intention among UK residents reached net neutral

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<sup>3</sup> See for example

[https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc\\_cid=c975bde8f8&mc\\_eid=e4236b0dbe](https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc_cid=c975bde8f8&mc_eid=e4236b0dbe)

levels for the first time since the survey began<sup>5</sup> and as of early May, Wales residents reported higher than normal intention for this type of activity.<sup>6</sup>

Face to Face interactions and meetings is also yearned for to develop networks, build relationships, learn, develop and get away from Teams and Zoom fatigue. It is noted by the sector that the intensity of virtual connections and meetings is impacting negatively on people and their wellbeing.

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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 UK Government reduced the level of their contribution to the guarantee from the end of June meaning that employers are required to progressively contribute towards the income guarantee of their employees. The scheme will come to a full close at 30 September. The tapering off of CJRS may therefore lead to thousands of job losses from the events industry who will be unable to make a contribution to the tapering if they find it commercially unviable for them to open. There are concerns that a lack of clarity around removing restrictions could lead to precautionary staff redundancies in the face of considerably uncertainty over future revenues.

A survey of the events industry in November 2020<sup>7</sup>, found that 75% of respondents who employ staff, have needed to put staff on furlough. About half (52%) who employ staff have either made redundancies, issued notice of or intend to make redundancies, or anticipate having to make redundancies. The median loss per business responding to the survey from the crisis is between £50,001 and £100,000. The median loss per business differs by size of business. The median loss for those who employ 1 to 5 staff is within the range of £100,000 to £250,000, whilst the median loss for those who employ more than 50 staff is more than £1,000,000<sup>8</sup>.

Allowing the restart of events through the test event programme 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. 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%

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<sup>5</sup> VisitBritain [Covid-19 Consumer Sentiment Tracker](#) 14-18 June 2021

<sup>6</sup> Visit Wales [Covid-19 Consumer Sentiment Tracker](#) 6 April-9 May 2021

<sup>7</sup> <https://gov.wales/events-industry-and-supply-chain-business-covid-19-impact-survey-12-november-8-december-2020-html>

<sup>8</sup> There is a small sample size when reporting results by size of business, and, therefore, an element of caution needs to be applied when interpreting these findings.

report being better off.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup>

Events act as a driver for tourism, hospitality, supply chain and food producers. The associated spend by event attendees in 2019 was:

- £220m on domestic leisure 3+ hour day visits (5% of domestic day spend), and an estimated £35m on domestic overnight trips (2% of domestic overnight spending), where a sporting event is the main activity.
- £88m on domestic leisure 3+ hour day visits (2% of domestic day spend), and an estimated £105m on domestic overnight trips (6% of domestic overnight spend), where a cultural/arts event is the main activity.
- £21m on domestic overnight trips for a business event (which is 15% of all domestic overnight business trips and spending, and 1.2% of all domestic overnight spending).
- There is no Wales-level data on domestic business day trips, but the UK market value is around £16bn (GBDVS 2018 data, produced for Eurostat).
- £72m on international business trips (all business purposes – insufficient detail in the data to identify ‘business events’), which is 14% of spending in Wales by international visitors.

Serviced accommodation and cities / large towns have experienced slower recovery and lower demand post-lockdown than other accommodation types and areas, so event and business visitors could positively impact demand for these sectors and locations.

The value of the business events sector to the wider events sector is significant and data from the BVEP ‘The UK Event Report 2019’ reports that events contribute as follows to the UK Economy:

### **Business Events**

- Conferences and meetings - £18.3 billion\*
- Exhibitions and trade fairs - £11 billion\*\*

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<sup>9</sup> Public Health Wales (2021) Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures: Week 48: 1 – 7 March 2021.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Resolution Foundation: [Incomes, savings and spending through the coronavirus crisis](#) November 2020

- Incentive travel and performance improvement - £1.2 billion\*\*\*
- Corporate outdoor events - £0.7 billion\*\*\*\*
- Total - £31.2 billion

### **Leisure Events**

- Arts and cultural events - £5.6 billion\*\*\*\*
- Festivals, fairs and shows - £6.0 billion\*\*\*\*
- Music events - £17.6 billion\*\*\*\*
- Sporting events - £9.6 billion\*\*\*\*
- Total – 38.8 billion

\*Source: UK Conference and Meeting Survey 2019

\*\*Source: Economic Impact of Exhibitions in the United Kingdom, 2019

\*\*\*Source: Events Are GREAT Britain Report

\*\*\*\*Source: Value of Outdoor Events 2018 (UK)

In 2018 inbound business visits to the UK represented 22% of all visits, contributing 8.4 million visits and £4.5 billion in spend. Inbound business events attendees are valuable visitors, spending 30% more on average than leisure visitors

Source – BVEP – Business Visits and Events Partnership

[BVEP - Business Visits and Events Partnership - BVEP launches report focused on £70bn events industry](#)

### **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. 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. For this reason, officials in Environment and Rural Affairs are monitoring the impacts on air quality that have arisen since lockdown measures were introduced. External consultants have been commissioned to analyse the impacts and this work will inform future policy with a view to retaining air quality improvements for the future, as far as possible.

### **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

#### *Equality impacts*

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it will increase opportunities for safe social

interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	Positive – access to events has positive impact on mental and physical well-being for all ages.	The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting COVID-19 increases with age, but these are largely mitigated through maintaining social distance and good hand hygiene	n/a
<i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i>	Positive - generally people with disabilities should be able to access and benefit from the same opportunities as others to engage in events.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in events 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 major differential impact expected.	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage events is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and	N/A

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
		promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	No major differential impact expected.	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in events 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 events 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 events is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase	N/A

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
		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. However male / female attendance at art/cultural/ business events is 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 events 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 events is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safe social interaction,	N/A

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
		thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in events 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>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-</i>	<i>Sport Wales survey conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020:</i>  <i>“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</i>	N/A

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
	<i>enabling activity in this area will widen the scope for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to engage in physical exercise.</i>	<i>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% Less 35% = -7 percentage points)"</i>	

*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:

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

<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</b>
and to regular contact)		loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing	

### *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*

In relation to the rights of children, Article 31 and Article 15 have been considered (rights to join in a wide range of activities and to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights). The gradual return of events more generally will support the above articles.

### *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**.

### **III. Ice Skating Rinks**

#### 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.

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

As part of a Sport Wales commissioned economic evaluation report, 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 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).

## IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

### *Equality impacts*

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below.

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<i>Positive: Re-opening more premises providing a greater range of services and attractions will be of benefit to all age groups. Younger cohorts of the population are significantly more likely to work within the sport and leisure sector in Wales than older cohorts, therefore opening the 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.</i>	<i>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).</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i>	<i>Positive. As more premises re-open, disabled people should benefit from being able to access a greater range of services and other opportunities. This will help to reduce</i>	<i>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>	<i>N/A</i>

	<i>loneliness and isolation; provide more access to support; and generally promote wellbeing.</i>		
<i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i>	<i>No differential impacts identified.</i>	<i>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>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Pregnancy and maternity</i>	<i>Positive: Re-opening more businesses such as ice rinks will provide a greater range of activities which mothers/carers may be able to take young children to enjoy.</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	<i>No differential impacts identified.</i>	<i>Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 8% of the workforce within the Sports Activities sector are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, while this group represents 5% of the overall Welsh workforce.</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	<i>No differential impacts identified.</i>		<i>N/A</i>

Sex / Gender	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.	N/A
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	No differential impacts identified.		N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	No differential impacts identified	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.	N/A
Children and young people up to the age of 18	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	Positive: Will provide increased opportunities for families to engage in a range of local activities.		Leisure facilities that are local will be more accessible to low income households who may be unable to travel far from their home.

## 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 affects the following:

<b><i>Human Rights</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</i></b>
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	<i>Positive: Will provide increased opportunities for families to engage in a range of local activities.</i>	<i>As more premises open, families will generally benefit from more opportunities for safe social interaction and opportunities to access services, which will help to reduce loneliness and isolation; and generally promote wellbeing.</i>	<i>No mitigation required.</i>

### ***United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child***

The convention has been considered in this assessment. The restrictions on bowling alleys 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**.

## IV. Night Clubs and Adult Entertainment Centres

### WELLBEING IMPACTS

Survey evidence provides a snapshot of mental wellbeing across Wales as restrictions remain in place. Public Health Wales' *Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures*, for the week 21 to 27 June, showed that 14% were worrying about their mental health a lot (36% a little), and 33% said their mental health was worse than before the pandemic.<sup>12</sup> The mental health charity Mind published survey evidence last year suggesting that more than half of adults and young people in the UK had experienced a deterioration in their mental health as restrictions have remained in place, with young adults being worse affected.<sup>13</sup>

It is well-established that unemployment is associated with low levels of wellbeing and worsening health. Increasingly, adverse effects will also be felt by new entrants to the labour market should they enter the labour market during an economic downturn. There is academic evidence that adverse labour market experiences in recession can have life-long effects on the economic, health, wellbeing and even life-expectancy of young people.<sup>14</sup>

### 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.<sup>15</sup> 6,000 of these jobs were in licenced clubs.<sup>16</sup>

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.

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<sup>12</sup> PHW [Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing During Coronavirus measures](#) 21-27 June

<sup>13</sup> Mind (2020) The mental health emergency: How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted our mental health?

<sup>14</sup> See: <https://voxeu.org/article/impact-covid-19-chronic-health-uk>

<sup>15</sup> Defined 2-digit SIC2007 code (56) Food and Beverage service activities i.e. restaurants, cafes, takeaway food, pubs / bars, clubs, and event catering

<sup>16</sup> Defined as SIC2007 code 56301 Licenced Clubs (includes nightclubs and social clubs)

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.<sup>17</sup>

### *General economic impacts*

Annual UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 9.9% in 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 Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) provides insights to the effects of restrictions across the UK on the broad *Accommodation and Food Service Activities* sector.<sup>18</sup> 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; as of mid June 9 in 10 UK accommodation and food service businesses were trading, in line with the average for UK businesses overall<sup>19</sup>. As expected these two sectors continue to report the most significant drops in business turnover, with half of UK accommodation and food service businesses saying their turnover had decreased, compared with 3 in 10 UK businesses overall.

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. Up to 31 June 2021 The CJRS ensured that should workers be furloughed the UK Government guaranteed 80% of their normal salaried income (with employers allowed to top up at their discretion). In the BICS survey for 5-18 April, 6% of UK workers were on furlough, compared with 13% of Accommodation and food services workers and 18% of Arts, entertainment and recreation workers (the worst impacted industry reported). . From 1 July the level of CJRS grant has been reduced to fund 70% of workers normal salaried income and from 1 August will be reduced to 60%.

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<sup>17</sup> Source: GBTS, 2019. Internal analysis

<sup>18</sup> Covering the period 18 May to 31 May.

<sup>19</sup> The percentage of businesses in the UK reporting that they were continuing to trade was 91% for the Accommodation and Food Services sector and 93% for the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector. The UK all-sector average was 88%.

For many in Wales the COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental impact on their household incomes. Survey evidence suggests that 14% of people are in a worse financial situation as a result of the coronavirus, while 21% report being better off.<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup>

## **Workforce**

The workforces for tourism and hospitality 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. 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 hospitality 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, nightclubs and sexual entertainment venues 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

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<sup>20</sup> Public Health Wales (2021) [Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures](#): Week 64: 21-27 June 2021.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

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

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. For this reason, officials in Environment and Rural Affairs are monitoring the impacts on air quality that have arisen since lockdown measures were introduced. External consultants have been commissioned to analyse the impacts and this work will inform future policy with a view to retaining air quality improvements for the future, as far as possible.

## ENABLER INTERDEPENDENCIES

### *Childcare*

Welsh Government analysis suggests that there are 11,400 adults employed within the pubs and restaurants sector – which includes nightclubs and SEVs? 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.

## 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 places not fully taking into account the needs of different groups. These are primarily about equality of access.

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<p>Positive: Younger cohorts of the population are significantly more likely to work within nightclubs in Wales than older cohorts, therefore opening them 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>	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>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 different types of disability)</i>	Positive: Disabled population in Wales represent a higher share of employees within the pubs and restaurants sector than they do in the workforce as a whole, therefore opening sector could have	Analysis of APS data for 2019 suggests that the proportion of disabled people working in pubs and restaurants in Wales, is higher than average with 19% of the workforce being classified as disabled	Welsh Government are aware of potential issues and are engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment.

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
	positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.	(this group represents 15% of the wider workforce).	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: Black Asian and Minority Ethnic populations are more likely to work within the hospitality sector in Wales than white population, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 12% of workers in pubs and restaurants in Wales are Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (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.  Risk assessments that businesses will need to conduct

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
	<p>incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.</p> <p>Negative: Black Asian and Minority Ethnic 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>		should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.
<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 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, nightclubs and restaurants could have childcare	Welsh Government analysis of 2018 Annual Population Survey data suggests that 11,400 adults employed within the	The Welsh Government has eased restrictions on childcare sector with a view to easing the pressures on families

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
	responsibilities. Traditional forms of childcare may have been disrupted by current lockdown restrictions.	pubs and restaurants sector have children under the age of 16.	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 <b>Food and Beverage Service Activities</b> (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.  Using the same data at <b>least 80%</b> of employees in <b>Food and Beverage Service Activities</b> are estimated to have lower gross hourly pay than the Welsh median.	No specific negative impacts from proposal.

### ***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:

<b><i>Human Rights</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</i></b>
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	Positive: allowing nightclubs and SEVs 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.

### *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*

The opening of indoor 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. Indoor 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 150,000 people directly employed in the visitor economy - around 12% 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.

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. Residential Visits

### WELLBEING IMPACTS

Public Health Wales' *Public Engagement Survey* conducted in early March found that 27 per cent of people reported worrying 'a lot' about their mental health and wellbeing over the previous week. Almost half (45%) said their physical fitness was worse than this time last year and the mental health charity Mind published survey evidence in June last year suggesting that more than half of adults and young people in the UK had experienced a deterioration in their mental health as restrictions have remained in place. More recent research by mental health charity the Mental Health Foundation found that over half of UK adults were experiencing anxiety or worry due to the pandemic. The research found that this was more common among women, students, and those who were unemployed; and that younger people and single parents were reporting higher levels of loneliness.<sup>23</sup>

The value of residential visits to a young person's wellbeing, particularly during a year when there have been significant restrictions on travel and social mixing, and varied educational experiences is substantial. Youth groups have indicated that the benefits of residential experiences for young people (often from the most disadvantaged backgrounds with complex family issues or who are not fully engaged in school opportunities) are hugely advantageous for their personal and social development. It is a clear opportunity to support their mental health and wellbeing, whilst helping them to develop skills, confidence and have new experiences.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales' 'Coronavirus and Me' survey of children and young people has shown that 76% of Year 6 respondents felt that saying goodbye to their primary school was important as part of the transition to secondary school. Likewise, 53% of 12-18 year old respondents noted that they were sad about missing out on experiences they were looking forward to, and 44% said that they had been worried during the pandemic. The non-formal approach to residential experiences will give young people the opportunity to take a break from their normal routine and in some cases discuss issues they have away from home and school environments.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

#### *General economic impacts*

In 2019 the whole of the *Accommodation* sector was worth £935 million of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy, equivalent to 1.4% total GVA for the same year. In 2019 the sector employed approximately 32,000 across Wales<sup>24</sup> and there were 1,855 branches of accommodation business across Wales.

The ONS have reported that UK annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 9.9% in 2020, and the *Accommodation and Food Services* sector showed negative growth of 44%. The *Accommodation* sector was particularly impacted, seeing a 73% fall in

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<sup>23</sup> Mental Health Foundation: [Coronavirus: mental health and the pandemic Wave 9: December 2020](#)

<sup>24</sup> BRES data will be used for employment figures. 2019 data for SIC group 55: Accommodation

output between February and December 2020<sup>25</sup>. Hostels in Wales, which over the last few years have reported steady, strong bed occupancy rates and reported 54% occupancy in 2019 saw an average of only 10% bedspace occupancy in 2020. The ONS' Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) provides insights to the effects of restrictions across the UK on the broad *Accommodation and Food Service Activities* sector.<sup>26</sup> Along with *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* it remains one of the areas of the UK economy that has been most severely impacted throughout the health pandemic and associated restrictions. Just over 8 in 10 UK businesses were trading during 01-13 June 2021 and just under 8 in 10 *Accommodation and Food Service Activities* businesses were trading during this period, though the number of open Arts, Entertainment and Recreation businesses had moved in line with the UK average.<sup>27</sup> As expected these two sectors continue to report having the most significant drops in business turnover, with 5 in 10 *Accommodation and Food services* businesses and 6 in 10 of *Arts, Entertainment and Recreation* businesses reporting a decrease in turnover vs normal, compared with a third of UK businesses overall.<sup>28</sup>

The Welsh Government established a fund [to support the residential outdoor education sector in Wales](#) with an initial allocation of £2 million. However, this fund provided eligible centres across Wales with support to cover essential operating costs during the period June to September 2021 (only). This easement will enable outdoor education centres to gradually restart offering visits for a sector that, as highlighted above, has been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

The youth work sector has faced substantial financial hardship over the course of the pandemic with many voluntary organisations using the furlough scheme, and being unable to undertake fundraising activities. The full impact of the pandemic is not yet clear, however some organisations have faced substantial redundancies.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The accommodation sector is an area of the economy which requires employees and consumers to travel to particular premises to operate. 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. For this reason, officials in Environment and Rural Affairs are monitoring the impacts on air quality that have arisen since lockdown measures were introduced. However, the environmental impact is likely to be low given that visits would typically involve small groups using shared transport such as minibuses where possible, and some advising groups to stay local to provide experiences.

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<sup>25</sup> ONS [GDP published 12 February 2021](#).

<sup>26</sup> Covering 25 January - 7 February 2021.

<sup>27</sup> The percentage of businesses in the UK reporting that they were continuing to trade was 61% for the Accommodation and Food Services sector, 78% for the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation sector, and the UK all-sector average was 83%.

<sup>28</sup> The percentage of businesses in the UK reporting a loss in turnover was 48.4% for the Accommodation and Food Services sector, 63.8% for the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector, and 31.3% for the all-sector UK average.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

### *Equality impacts*

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics is set out below.

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
<i>Age (think about different age groups)</i>	<i>Positive: Allowing residential experiences will significantly improve the mental wellbeing of children and young people and provide valuable educational and learning experiences that it is simply not possible to replicate in a more formal environment. Opening up residential experiences will also 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), as well as re-engaging volunteers in the sector.</i>		<i>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.  Risk assessments that youth groups and the relevant residential accommodation are asked to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</i>

	<p><i>Negative: The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting COVID-19 as more young people mix. However increased mixing is expected during the summer holiday and beyond and risks must be balanced with the increased mental health and wellbeing they will experience. Clear guidance on expected measures to ensure hygiene and social distancing is provided through the existing guidance. .</i></p>		
<p><i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i></p>	<p><i>Positive: No specific differential impacts identified for the workforce. However residential experiences could allow those with disabilities to undertake activities they have not been able to access before or for some time. .</i></p>	<p><i>Analysis of APS data for 2019 suggests that disabled people represent 11% of employees within the accommodation sector in Wales (this group represents 15% of the wider workforce).</i></p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>
<p><i>Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)</i></p>	<p><i>No specific differential impacts identified for staff.</i></p> <p><i>Positive: Additionally youth work is an inclusive sector and this could give opportunities for young people going through gender reassignment themselves or within their families</i></p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>

<p><i>Pregnancy and maternity</i></p>	<p><i>Positive: Youth work is an inclusive sector, and opportunities for pregnant or young parents to engage in appropriate activities to support their mental health and wellbeing could ensure they have time to be themselves, have fun and be young people</i></p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>	<p><i>N/A</i></p>
<p><i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i></p>	<p><i>Neutral: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals make up a proportional share of employees in the accommodation sector as they do of the wider workforce. This is true of young people as well. As part of the work of the Interim Youth Work Board they are considering how to ensure youth work is truly equal and diverse and this type of opportunity can provide opportunities to learn about different cultures and backgrounds of children and young people taking part</i></p> <p><i>Negative: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups may be disproportionately at risk of negative health outcomes should they contract COVID-19, which should be considered for both</i></p>	<p><i>Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 5% of workers in <b>accommodation</b> in Wales are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (this group only represents 5% of the Welsh workforce).</i></p> <p><i>From discussions as part of the work of the Interim Youth Work Board and through working with organisations such as EYST we know this is an area where there is scope for greater focus on encouraging young people from minority backgrounds to access youth services, these types of activities can promote better understanding of what is available to them, and provide opportunities for a safe environment in which to discuss issues that have affected them especially over</i></p>	<p><i>Guidance and promoted mitigations are designed to reduce the risk of transmission for all groups, including customers and staff.</i></p> <p><i>Risk assessments that businesses are asked to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</i></p> <p><i>Youth groups will be asked to consider how opportunities to attend residential activities over the summer and beyond could include people who would otherwise not engage with these opportunities.</i></p>

	<i>staff and customers of the sector.</i>	<i>lockdowns such as Black Lives Matter protests.</i>	
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	<i>No specific differential impacts identified.</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	<p><i>Positive: Opening up the sector could have beneficial distributional consequences for women 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).</i></p> <p><i>Positive: youth work can provide a range of support for young people regardless of their sex/gender. It can also help to make them more aware of issues that affect the other sex/gender and to discuss issues that may affect them.</i></p>	<p><i>Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 53% of workers in Wales within the <b>accommodation</b> sector are female, while women represent 47% of the total Welsh workforce.</i></p> <p><i>Youth workers are qualified and trained to work with all young people, to address stereotypes and provide equality of opportunity to all regardless of the young person's sex or gender, whilst also being mindful of issues that may impact as a result.</i></p>	<i>No perceived negative impacts to mitigate.</i>
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	<p><i>No specific differential impacts identified.</i></p> <p><i>Positive: As in the other areas above youth work provides a safe space for young people to be themselves and to discuss issues which affect them, with trained professional</i></p>	<i>Youth workers are often utilised in schools to provide sessions on areas such as sexual education. Youth organisations in schools and in the wider community have, or are linked to, groups that provide specific support</i>	<i>N/A</i>

	<i>staff to facilitate discussions.</i>	<i>around a young person's sexual orientation, celebrating the work they are doing and also sharing good practice with others. Examples can be seen through the <a href="#">Youth Work Excellence Awards</a></i>	
<i>Marriage and civil partnership</i>	<i>No specific differential impacts identified.</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	<i>Positive: Allowing residential school trips will significantly improve the mental wellbeing of children and young people and provide valuable personal, educational and learning experiences that it is simply not possible to replicate in a formal classroom environment.</i>		
<i>Low-income households</i>	<i>Positive: Opening up the sector could have substantial beneficial distributional consequences for the low paid 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 across the voluntary sector).</i>	<i>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 <b>Accommodation</b> (SIC code 55) median gross hourly pay was £8.82 - £3.37 lower than the Welsh median for all employee jobs of £12.19. For weekly gross pay in this sector the median is £280.30,</i>	<i>No perceived negative impacts to mitigate.</i>

	<i>Additionally these types of experiences can be life changing for young people, helping to build confidence, develop ambition, and a better understanding of what they can achieve.</i>	<i>approximately £160.50 lower than the Welsh median.</i>  <i>Using the same data at least 75% of employees in <b>Accommodation</b> are estimated to have lower gross hourly pay than the Welsh median.</i>	
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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 could affect the following:

<b><i>Human Rights</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</i></b>
<b><i>Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)</i></b> <i>recognises the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to</i>	<i>Positive: allowing the accommodation sector 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.</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>No specific negative impacts from the proposal.</i>

<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</b>
<i>the continuous improvement of living conditions.</i>			

### *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*

The convention has been considered in this assessment. The principal benefit is a positive impact from going on holidays on **Article 31** (All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities). Going on holiday as part of an extended household or with another household socially distanced could support rights under **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 12** (Children have the right to express their views) and **Article 13** (Children shall have the right to freedom of expression) are also relevant as young people will often choose to engage in a residential experience for the specific activity, or opportunities it brings, as well as giving them the opportunity to express themselves in a safe environment with their peers and trusted adults. The Youth Work Strategy for Wales sets out that in order to ensure we are a country where young people are thriving, we will deliver quality youth work provision which is rooted in the UNCRC so that young people can find their voice, formulate and convey their ideas, develop autonomy, build skills, make friends and have fun.

Allowing residential experiences will support the commitment to young people and be a positive step towards ensuring that young people are able to move away from the anxiety and stress caused by the pandemic. Further it will also respond to the findings of the Coronavirus and Me survey where the top two responses from young people (aged 12-18) on which stay at home rules have impacted the most on how they feel they are 'not being able to spend time with friends' (72%) and 'not being able to visit family members' (59%).

### *Welsh Language*

The proposals to reopen accommodation is likely to have a positive impact on the Welsh Government's aim to increase the number of Welsh speakers, promote the use of the Welsh language, and creating favourable conditions for the Welsh language, as set out in **Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers**. Some types of residential experiences will be run through the medium of Welsh, expanding the use of the Welsh language out of the normal home and school environments.

## VI. Outdoor gatherings

### WELLBEING IMPACTS

There are significant negative impacts associated with restricting people socialising and gathering outdoors. Social distancing requirements and limits on capacity outdoors have a large impact on the events sector in particular. 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 space<sup>29</sup>. Attending or participating in events 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.

The PHW survey on health and wellbeing (21 to 27 June 2021) showed that when asked how they have felt in the last week 25% of people reported feeling lonely occasionally whilst 11% felt lonely always or often. Some 27% of people felt isolated occasionally with 10% reporting feeling this way always or often. Over this period the proportion reporting being worried about their mental health and wellbeing a lot was 14%. This is despite current restrictions allowing extended households and the rule of six in regulated settings. Allowing the rule of six indoors should help the wellbeing of those that may feel lonely or isolated, by allowing further opportunities for socialisation.

Separately, in the same survey, 41% of respondents reported that they had been worrying 'a little' about going out in public places and 13% reported that they had been worrying about it 'a lot'. This suggests that there is a significant minority of the Welsh population that are anxious about catching coronavirus, even after having had the vaccine.

A previous wave of the PHW survey (10 to 16 May 2021) analysed the trends of selected questions about people's wellbeing over the course of the pandemic. 42% of respondents said that their mental health was worse at the time of the survey compared to before the pandemic, equivalent to over 1 million adults. Females and younger people were more likely to report that their mental health had worsened over the course of the pandemic.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc\\_cid=c975bde8f8&mc\\_eid=e4236b0dbe](https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/places-spaces-and-loneliness-what-matters-for-participatory-art-and-sport/?mc_cid=c975bde8f8&mc_eid=e4236b0dbe)

<sup>30</sup> <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/how-are-you-doing/how-are-we-doing-in-wales-reports/week-58-report-how-are-we-doing-in-wales1/>

ONS also produced analysis in May 2021 looking at the impact of Coronavirus on depression in adults in the UK. 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, disabled people or those living in deprived areas were most likely to be experiencing depression.<sup>31</sup>

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

As social distancing places capacity limits on venues and working environments, it is the hospitality, arts, entertainment and recreation, and travel/transport industries that have been hardest hit. These are also the sectors where it is hardest to work from home.

As at 31 May Accommodation and food services and Arts, entertainment and recreation remain the two sectors with the highest furlough take-up rates in Wales with 34% and 31% respectively, much higher than the total Welsh take-up rate of 7%. Within this, remaining social distancing requirements and limits on capacity outdoors are likely to have the biggest impact on the events sector. While some events are currently able to operate, the current restrictions mean that for many, revenues are lower than they would be without restrictions, while many other events are unviable while restrictions remain.

A survey of the events industry in November 2020<sup>32</sup>, found that 75% of respondents who employ staff, have needed to put staff on furlough. About half (52%) who employ staff have either made redundancies, issued notice of or intend to make redundancies, or anticipate having to make redundancies. The median loss per business responding to the survey from the crisis is between £50,001 and £100,000. The median loss per business differs by size of business. The median loss for those who employ 1 to 5 staff is within the range of £100,000 to £250,000, whilst the median loss for those who employ more than 50 staff is more than £1,000,000<sup>33</sup>.

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<sup>31</sup> [Coronavirus and depression in adults, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/coronavirus-and-depression-in-adults-great-britain)

<sup>32</sup> <https://gov.wales/events-industry-and-supply-chain-business-covid-19-impact-survey-12-november-8-december-2020-html>

<sup>33</sup> There is a small sample size when reporting results by size of business, and, therefore, an element of caution needs to be applied when interpreting these findings.

Removing social distancing restrictions outside would ease financial pressures on businesses in these sectors, though there is variation within and between sectors. Social distancing restricts capacity, which means that many businesses must limit or, in some cases, suspend their activities until social distancing is withdrawn. Sectors that are reliant on social interaction, for example arts, recreation, and entertainment are most affected, with businesses reporting a reduction in capacity of around 70-80% for some sport venues, 50-70% for most theatres and 40-60% for some cinemas.<sup>34</sup> At the lowest point in June 2020 less than a quarter of arts, entertainment and recreation businesses were trading.

Removing all outdoor restrictions will facilitate the return to work of many employees within these sectors who currently could be earning below the National Living and Minimum Wages due to receiving 80% of their pre-crisis income. 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.<sup>34</sup> 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.<sup>35</sup> 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.<sup>36</sup>

Reimposing social distancing would carry significant costs, especially if measures were repeatedly lifted and reimposed, for example in response to seasonal fluctuations in transmission. Businesses have expressed a preference for irreversibility over speed which gives more certainty to plan and invest, and would rather see measures retained if they reduce risk of a future lockdown or reimposition of more stringent restrictions. For some sectors (for example large events), the need to have longer lead-in times to organise events exacerbates the costs of re-implementing measures. Local authorities have also made significant investment in social distancing measures which would be costly to reintroduce once removed.

It should be noted that easing of social distancing and other restrictions might be the point where those businesses that were being kept in hibernation by WG and UKG funding decide they are unable to re-open, having lost staff or do not hold sufficient reserves to be able to confidentially re-start.

In the PHW survey on health and wellbeing (21 to 27 June 2021), 41% of respondents reported that they had been worrying 'a little' about going out in public

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<sup>34</sup> Public Health Wales (2021) Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures: Week 48: 1 – 7 March 2021.

<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> Resolution Foundation: [Incomes, savings and spending through the coronavirus crisis](#) November 2020

places and 13% reported that they had been worrying about it 'a lot'. This suggests that there is a significant minority of the Welsh population that are anxious about catching coronavirus, even after having had the vaccine. As a result, it is reasonable to expect that this will affect their behaviour once restrictions are eased further, and this will, in turn, affect demand in some industries.

## 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 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.

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
<p><i>Age (think about different age groups)</i></p>	<p><i>Positive: Allowing any number of people to meet outdoors for any reason in outside settings will benefit those cut-off from family and friends, mitigating effects of loneliness and isolation or digital exclusion.</i></p> <p><i>Negative: People of all ages, but particularly older people, those with underlying health conditions or disabled people may be concerned about increased risks from an increase in people socialising outdoors</i></p> <p>Whilst it would be personal choice as to whether or not to socialise outdoors or attend organised outdoor activities and events, it would not necessarily be personal choice for those who work in these environments.</p> <p>Furthermore, there would be a reliance on behaviours of every individual to not only consider their own safety but also the safety of others.</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 at least the first dose of the vaccine, so could alleviate some of the concerns.</p>	<p>Public messaging will provide guidance on how people can minimise risks when gathering in large groups.</p> <p>Statutory guidance has been issued for businesses to complete a risk assessment and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to and spread of coronavirus. Employers should consult employees on the measures being taken to protect the public and their workforce.</p> <p>Continued guidance for those clinically extremely vulnerable to ensure additional risks are considered when indoors.</p>

<b>Protected characteristic or group</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate Impacts?</b>
<p><i>Disability (think about different types of disability)</i></p>	<p>Positive: for disabled people who have not needed to access provisions under support and care will be able to meet socially with additional friends in larger numbers in outdoor settings</p> <p>Negative: People with underlying health conditions or disabled people may be concerned about increased risks from an increase in people socialising outdoors. Also this group are more likely than any other group to be unable to accept the vaccine due to their impairment. Inevitably this could lead to increase anxiety and result in self exclusion.</p> <p>Whilst it would be personal choice as to whether or not to socialise outdoors or attend organised outdoor activities and events, it would not necessarily be personal choice for those who work in these environments.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Public messaging will provide guidance on how people can minimise risks when gathering in large groups.</p> <p>Statutory guidance has been issued for businesses to complete a risk assessment and take reasonable measures to minimise exposure to and spread of coronavirus. Employers should consult employees on the measures being taken to protect the public and their workforce</p>

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
	Furthermore, there would be a reliance on behaviours of every individual to not only consider their own safety but also the safety of others.		
<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>	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment
<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>	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment
<i>Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)</i>	<i>Positive:</i> No specific differential impacts  <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.	(NEED TO INCLUDE STATES ON VACCINE TAKE UP AND DEATHS FOR THIS CATEGORY)	General communication activity on the risks for different groups and ongoing need for everyone to continue to follow guidance, specifically relating to using own judgement and thinking about own behaviours to minimise exposure and spread and to think about other peoples safety not just their own. This

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
			<p>includes considering if it would be appropriate to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social distance from others who you do not live with or who are part of your extended household (if and where possible); good hand hygiene</li> <li>• Getting a test and self isolating if you are showing symptoms</li> <li>• Self-isolating when told to do so by contact tracers</li> <li>• Avoid crowded places if at all possible or consider face-coverings, even when outdoors in large gatherings.</li> </ul>
<i>Religion, belief and non-belief</i>	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
<i>Sex / Gender</i>	<i>Positive:</i> The restrictions appear to affect different sexes in different ways, which could be mitigated by relaxation.	Surveys indicate females are more likely to be self-isolating, very worried about their mental health, feeling anxious and feeling isolated. More females say their sleeping is negatively affected during lockdown	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment
<i>Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)</i>	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment
<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)	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment
<i>Children and young people up to the age of 18</i>	<i>Positive:</i> Children under the age of 11 have been excluded from the previous outdoor restrictions, as have children up to the age of 18 when taking part in organised activities for the development and wellbeing of children.  This easement will have a positive impact on children and young	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)	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment

<b><i>Protected characteristic or group</i></b>	<b><i>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</i></b>	<b><i>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</i></b>	<b><i>How will you mitigate Impacts?</i></b>
	<p>people who can socialise freely anywhere outside without a cap on numbers.</p> <p>Negative, as with other groups mentioned, there could be anxieties and concerns to wider relaxations for those under 18 due to the fact that they will not have received the vaccination due to their age (with the exemption of some 16 – 17 year olds with underlying health conditions). They may not feel as protected as other groups as they would be more susceptible to the virus than those who have received both vaccines.</p>		
<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	No specific additional mitigations are proposed other than the general messaging as outlined within this impact assessment

## 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:

<b>Human Rights</b>	<b>What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?</b>	<b>Reasons for your decision (including evidence)</b>	<b>How will you mitigate negative Impacts?</b>
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 indoors 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.