

Coronavirus Restrictions Review - 3 June 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 13 May](#).

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 3 June 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 3 June 2021 are as follows:

From 7 June 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 outdoors, including private gardens, are relaxed to allow a maximum of 30 people (not including children under 11 or carers from any of these households) to gather.
- Extended households can now include up to three separate households, plus a fourth household under limited circumstances as set out below:
 - a household with an adult living alone
 - a household with a single responsible adult
 - a household where you are 16 or 17 living alone or with others of the same age, with no adult
- The restriction on the numbers allowed for organised activities and the number of guests allowed at a wedding, civil partnership reception and wakes will remain at 30 indoors. However, outdoors these types of celebrations can either be organised by an individual for up to 30 people or as part of a ‘regulated gathering’ for up to 4,000 people standing or 10,000 people seated.
- Restrictions will be removed to allow Ice Skating Rinks to re-open
- Restrictions will be amended to allow larger scale events such as concerts, football matches and graduation ceremonies to resume with new rules on numbers of people attending. These rules include:
 - up to 4,000 for outdoor standing events; and
 - up to 10,000 for outdoor seated events.

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 3 June April 2021.

Review of restrictions regulations

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

Impact Assessments

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

- i. 30 people meeting outdoors, including in private gardens
- ii. Extended households
- iii. Organised Outdoor Activities
- iv. Weddings, civil partnerships and wakes
- v. Ice Rinks
- vi. Larger scale events
- vii. Residential education visits

- I. 30 people meeting outdoors, including in private gardens

WELLBEING IMPACTS

There are significant negative impacts associated with restricting people socialising.

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

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

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

Previous analysis by Public Health Wales¹ of the data from its weekly wellbeing surveys (covering the period of 13 April – 10 May) identified key demographic findings for people living in the most deprived areas of Wales who are more likely to

¹ <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/public-health-survey-reveals-bigger-impacts-of-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-and-restriction-measures-on-wellbeing-of-those-in-poorer-communities/>

be: self-isolating (45% of the most deprived fifth of the population compared with 31% of the most affluent fifth of the population); very worried about their mental health (30% vs 17%); feeling very anxious (28% vs 20%); and feeling isolated (29% vs 18%).

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

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

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

Additional evidence:

- Ipsos Mori survey data⁴ suggests that 17% of Welsh participants are worried about not being able to go out in general and 20% of Welsh participants are worried about their mental health

2

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

3

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

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

- Hafal's survey of 300 adults in Wales⁵ suggest that 73% of participants say their mental health has been negatively affected as a result of the coronavirus outbreak
Mental Health Foundation's longitudinal study⁶ suggests that 24% of UK adults have felt loneliness because of coronavirus and feelings of loneliness have more than doubled since lockdown.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

For those businesses able to operate, the change to allow more people to meet outdoors could potentially see a marginal positive economic impact as a result of allowing more activities to take place. For example, this change might encourage people to meet others where they previously might not have done, and this could lead them to spending more as a result.

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

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

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

An assessment of impacts by protected characteristics and groups is set out below. In general terms the proposal promotes equality as it allows up to 30 people (not including children under 11 or carers from these households) to meet for any reason outdoors, including private garden and outdoor hospitality settings that will have affected different groups in different ways.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	<p>Positive: Allowing 30 people from up to 30 different households to meet for any reason outdoors, including private gardens, will benefit those cut-off from family and friends, mitigating effects of loneliness and isolation or digital exclusion.</p> <p>Negative: People of all ages, but particularly older people, may be concerned about increased risks of exposure from an increase in people meeting outdoors due to the more serious impact of COVID-19 on older people and those with underlying health conditions</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>Guidance will be issued to outline increased risks of people meeting outdoors in larger groups (up to 30 people from 30 households), and how to best protect against transmission (social distancing).</p> <p>Continued guidance for those clinically extremely vulnerable to ensure additional risks are considered when outdoors.</p>
Disability (think about different types of disability)	Positive: for disabled people who have not needed to access provisions under support and care will be able to meet socially with additional	Our rules already allowed for disabled people (including disabled children) to access support and care from friends and family. Therefore,	No specific additional mitigations are proposed

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	friends and family outdoors including in private gardens	disabled people could already receive support and care if and when required. The increase in numbers will also offer further opportunities for all people to meet with more people, thus presenting more opportunities to socialise.	
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)	Positive: The ability to access support networks may have been constrained by the restrictions which would negatively affect wellbeing.	No specific evidence identified	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive: Issues of loneliness, isolation or access to support networks may have been exacerbated by restrictions on meeting with other households	No specific evidence identified	N/A
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)	Positive: No specific differential impacts households Negative: Black Asian and minority ethnic individuals are known to be at higher risk from the effects of coronavirus and may have heightened		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.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	concerns about easing restrictions.		
Religion, belief and non-belief	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	N/A
Sex / Gender	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
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	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
Children and young people up to the age of 18	Positive: Children under the age of 11 are excluded from the 30 people meeting restriction as long as they are from one of the households who are meeting. The relaxation of 30 people over 11 years of age will enable more young people to gather and socialise	The top two issues for children (12-18) relating to restrictions are 'not being able to spend time with friends' (72%) and 'not being able to visit family members' (59%) (Coronavirus and Me survey, January 2021)	N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	together which will lead to great impacts on mental health and wellbeing.		
Low-income households	Positive: Issues of loneliness, isolation or access to support networks may have been exacerbated by restrictions on meeting with other households.	PHW Wellbeing survey: 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:

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government	Positive: removing meeting other people outdoors restrictions will facilitate family relationships by limiting restrictions placed by the government.	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	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
(e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	Remaining restrictions on indoors and numbers of households continue to be necessary and proportionate on public health grounds.	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. Extended Households

WELLBEING IMPACTS

The ability to form extended households (with any two other households, as well as a well-being needs household) will result in people regardless of their circumstances to have increased contact with an extended group of people. This will improve the well-being of people who have suffered from loneliness and isolation. There are specific benefits associated with extended households for care and support, including informal childcare. Evidence below considers general evidence on loneliness and isolation, before considering additional care and childcare evidence.

Loneliness and isolation

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

The following data was used during the easement to allow extended households in 2020. It is likely that the key messages below are relevant to this easement due to the environment looking relatively similar to present day.

A study by the Institute for Social and Economic Research (June 2020) finds declines in well-being during the pandemic are strongly associated with family responsibilities, financial circumstance, and with age: the young have been much more strongly affected than the old. In explaining the gender gap, they find an important role for social factors. Having a larger social network before the pandemic is strongly associated with larger well-being declines after the pandemic's onset. Women reported more close friends before the pandemic than men, and higher loneliness than men after the pandemic's onset.

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

Previous analysis by Public Health Wales⁷ of the data from its weekly wellbeing surveys (covering the period of 13 April – 10 May) identified key demographic findings for people living in the most deprived areas of Wales who are more likely to be: self-isolating (45% of the most deprived fifth of the population compared with 31% of the most affluent fifth of the population); very worried about their mental health (30% vs 17%); feeling very anxious (28% vs 20%); and feeling isolated (29% vs 18%).

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

Additional evidence:

- Ipsos Mori survey data⁸ suggests that 17% of Welsh participants are worried about not being able to go out in general and 20% of Welsh participants are worried about their mental health
- Hafal's survey of 300 adults in Wales⁹ suggest that 73% of participants say their mental health has been negatively affected as a result of the coronavirus outbreak
- Mental Health Foundation's longitudinal study¹⁰ suggests that 24% of UK adults have felt loneliness because of coronavirus and feelings of loneliness have more than doubled since lockdown.

The ONS report 'Coronavirus and loneliness'¹¹ (3 April – 3 May) considers how the coronavirus has impacted people living with loneliness. While this is now dated, it highlighted the chronically lonely and the lockdown lonely were most worried about the impact of COVID-19 on their wellbeing over other concerns. They were more likely than average to report feeling stressed or anxious; spending too much time

⁷ <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/public-health-survey-reveals-bigger-impacts-of-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-and-restriction-measures-on-wellbeing-of-those-in-poorer-communities/>

⁸ <https://www.ipsos.com/ipsos-mori/en-uk/Covid-19-and-mental-wellbeing>

⁹ <https://www.hafal.org/2020/04/survey-raises-concerns-about-the-provision-of-mental-health-services-in-wales-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

¹⁰ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/research/coronavirus-mental-health-pandemic>

¹¹

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandloneliness/greatbritain/3aprilto3may2020>

alone; feeling bored; impacts on their mental health; strain on personal relationships and having no-one to talk to about their problems.

ONS also produced analysis in December 2020 looking at the impact of Coronavirus on depression in adults. This indicated that around a fifth of adults were likely to experiencing some form of depression in November 2020, almost double the rates reported prior to the pandemic. It also showed that younger adults, women, those unable to afford an unexpected expense or disabled people were most likely to be experiencing depression.¹²

Childcare

A number of studies covering Wales and internationally show that coronavirus is having, or is likely to have, a lasting impact on the wellbeing of children and young people. It is exacerbating feelings of anxiety, loneliness, and unhappiness in children and young people. There is also evidence of regression in child development and child independence while children have been away from settings¹³. Our survey of childcare providers in February 2021 highlighted widespread concerns about child social, emotional and behavioural development of children in their care who had not attended as much or for a long period due to COVID-19¹⁴. Some children had returned less confident and more anxious. In certain cases, children had also become less independent, for example returning to their setting using dummies or back in nappies having previously been toilet trained. A similar study of providers in England found similar findings, so it is likely widespread parental concerns identified by a survey by the Sutton Trust in England¹⁵ would be mirrored here. This found majority of parents of 2 -4 year olds surveyed (56%) are worried about the impact on their child's overall development or wellbeing during the pandemic. When it comes to the reasons behind these worries, over two-thirds (69%) of parents feel that not being able to play with other children has negatively impacted their child.

Periods of prolonged restrictions such as those at Alert Level 4 restrict opportunities for environmental enrichment for all, but are likely to have a particularly damaging effect on younger children. The Babies in Lockdown¹⁶ report also highlights parental concerns about the impact on their child's development. While childcare services remained open throughout Alert Level 4, and access to schools was prioritised, it is

¹²

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

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/early-years-childcare-registering-with-ofsted>

¹⁴ Welsh Government Wave 2 'Registered childcare and play 'health check' survey.

¹⁵ [Sutton Trust calls for early years to be at heart of education recovery plan - Sutton Trust](#)

¹⁶ <https://babiesinlockdown.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/babies-in-lockdown-main-report-final-version-1.pdf>

important to remember that not all children access childcare or school based education. For many the support of the wider family structure is critical

Exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs, e.g. maltreatment, household dysfunction) is associated with a multiplicity of negative outcomes throughout an individual's life, for example, increase in alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide attempts compared to those who experienced none (Ford et al 2019). Survey evidence has shown some parents have increased unhealthy behaviours since the pandemic, which may be putting more children at risk. With attendance at childcare settings reduced, children who are potentially vulnerable are less visible which makes safeguarding more challenging.

Pre-school aged children today are also more likely to have older parents, fewer siblings and a greater chance of experiencing a variety of family relationships. This can make isolation and loneliness at home more likely, and attending childcare could provide them with a stability that might be missing at home (Ford et al 2019).

As informal childcare is not regulated, there is little formal data on its usage. Parent understanding of what constitutes informal childcare also limits research findings which are available. In 2015/16 a survey of childcare usage was undertaken by Understanding Society. This showed:

- Welsh and Northern Irish children are more likely to be in informal childcare than English children;
- Single parents are more likely to use informal childcare and to do so for more hours of care than two parent households;
- Those on lower incomes are more likely to use informal childcare.

Of those families in Wales using informal childcare, 38% were using 10 hours or less per week with just 10% using 70 or more hours per week. This compares to England where 45% used 10 or less hours of informal childcare per week and just 8% used 70 hours or more. However, 15% of single parent households in Wales used informal childcare for 70 hour or more per week compared to 6% of two-parent households.

Looking at the [National Survey for 2018-19](#), of the 48% of parents of children aged 0 to 14 using childcare so that they could work, study or go on training 76% used informal childcare, with around half of those doing so for 10 hours per less per week. In addition to this 7% of parents paid family and friends to provide childcare.

The type of childcare used also varied with the age of the child. 92% of the oldest children (12-14) were looked after by family and friends (unpaid) compared with 73% of the youngest (0-4). Recent research suggests families with older children are using formal childcare less since COVID-19. The majority of families with younger children are expected to use the same number of hours formal childcare now as they did before the March lockdown¹⁷.

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-impact-of-coronavirus-covid-19-on-childcare-use-for-tax-free-childcare-customers>

We have also been looking at patterns of usage of the Childcare Offer for Wales. Since the original roll out of the Offer take-up has been considerably lower across the South Wales valleys than in other parts of Wales. Feedback from parents and local authorities suggests this is because of a preference for the use of informal childcare.

We also see strong usage of informal childcare in Welsh speaking families, linked to transmission of the language.

Unpaid carers

Many unpaid carers have chosen to not allow care workers into the home to protect themselves and the person they care for from COVID-19. In addition, people furloughed from work or working from home have been able to temporarily step in to provide care and support. Despite this, the pressure of coping without formal support is leading many carers to contact third sector organisations for psychological support.

Carers UK¹⁸ undertook an online survey between 3-14 April 2020 on the impact of COVID-19 on carers. This found around 70% of carers were providing more care than before and over half (57%) were feeling overwhelmed. Carers UK¹⁹ six month update in September 2020 found that over three quarters (76%) of carers responding to their survey reported feeling exhausted and worn out as a result of caring during the COVID-19 pandemic. 66% reported that their mental health has worsened.

Comments from carers also show that the closure of key day services and specialist provision has been particularly hard for certain groups, such as those caring for some with a learning disability, autism, or dementia. Many spoke of increases in challenging behaviour because of the person not understanding circumstantial changes or the new rules that they must follow.

Those who were caring before the pandemic are more likely to be providing higher levels of care than before and for longer periods without a break (e.g. Carers UK²⁰ report).

People in the shielding category and many aged over 70 may have had limited social contact over the course of lockdown. This may have been particularly difficult for those living on their own. Carers may also have spent an extended period of time on their own providing care, which may have increased their anxiety, stress, loneliness and fatigue. Social isolation may also have exacerbated existing health issues for both individuals and carers.

Our consultation on the new Strategy for Unpaid Carers²¹ closed in January 2021. We received 71 responses to a question regarding the impact that caring had had on the lives of unpaid carers. A common theme in individual replies was a sense of

¹⁸ [Carers UK, Caring behind closed doors, April 2020](#)

¹⁹ [Carers UK, Caring behind closed doors 6 months on, September 2020](#)

²⁰ [Carers UK, Caring behind closed doors, April 2020](#)

²¹ [Welsh Government, Strategy for Unpaid Carers summary of responses, March 2021](#)

increased isolation and loneliness, often because wider family contact and help, or formal support from paid care workers, was reduced or ceased completely. Both individual responses and those from organisations mentioned the problem of deteriorating mental health, with many carers experiencing anxiety, stress and depression, and potentially a deterioration in their own physical health.

Allowing a friend or family member from outside the household to provide care and support would bring both practical and emotional benefits and help to alleviate stress and anxiety. This face to face support could be of particular benefit to people with sensory loss or other life limiting conditions and disabilities. Emotional support could include time together to chat and share concerns. Practical support could include help with household tasks, childcare or support to get online and use skype or facebook. This could help to ease the generational digital divide.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Childcare

Childcare is important to employability and economic growth. Childcare enables a large number of parents to work, and, based on survey work done in 2015/16, these parents go on to collectively generate [an estimated £1.2 billion in income per year](#), supporting economic growth and poverty reduction across Wales.

The childcare sector is thought to have expanded since this time, and more mothers in particular have moved into or returned to work after having children. It is expected therefore that the income per year generated would be much higher if the survey and calculation was carried out more recently.

COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, a substantial impact on the childcare and play sector. Prior to the outbreak there were 3,615 registered childcare and play settings in Wales. As at 18 May 2020 around 50% of provision across Wales had notified Care Inspectorate Wales they were temporarily closed due to COVID-19, with the majority citing the low numbers of children in attendance. With the reopening of the Childcare Offer to applications in the summer of 2020 and the return to more normal operations, many providers opened their doors again. On 24 May 2021 6% of settings were closed due to COVID-19. The UK and Welsh Government has invested significantly in terms of additional funding to support the sustainability of providers and continues to provide updated [protective measures guidance](#) on how childcare providers can keep their settings safe for children and staff.

Surveys have shown, even where parents are able to work from home, they are less able to work effectively during the pandemic due to childcare responsibilities, and this is a barrier to working at all for some parents. Parents report that finding childcare is the biggest barrier to them resuming work when restrictions are lifted. Not being able to access registered childcare is therefore restricting employability

and the economy (financially, but also in terms of innovation, creativity, etc that are driven by workforce diversity and mind-space).

Women have already been more adversely impacted than men; in terms of childcare being a barrier to working from home, and returning to work, even in two parent families where men have been shown to contribute to childcare less than women. The way that couples divide paid work and household responsibilities during this crisis could have an effect that lasts long after the lockdown is lifted. If, on average, mothers are more likely to step back from paid work during this crisis (either voluntarily or through temporary or permanent job loss) and are more likely to pick up more of the domestic responsibilities, they could face a long-run hit to their earnings prospects. This risks reversing some of the progress that has been made on closing the gender wage gap.²²

Unpaid carers

Extended households could also potentially allow people from within a household to resume employment if they have been caring for an individual within the home. A Carers UK report found that:

- Balancing caring responsibilities with work, remains a challenge with previous arrangements including school, day care and other family members providing support no longer an option for many with 6% having had to give up work since the coronavirus outbreak.
- 41% of people are working from home. Managing caring and working from home can be challenging, with the emotional impact of not being able to take a break challenging for some carers to manage and the time spent trying to work whilst also juggling care.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Providing for extended households is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact. There is the possibility of some impact in levels of air pollution caused by people travelling to visit people in their extended households. 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. Officials in Environment and Rural Affairs are monitoring the impacts on air quality that have arisen since lockdown measures were introduced, with wide media reporting of apparently improved air quality. 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.

²² <https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14860>

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

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

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	<p>Positive: expanding the extended household rules to include a third household provision within extended households will benefit all age groups, mitigating effects of loneliness and isolation (a particular issue for younger people) or digital exclusion (for older people).</p> <p>The wellbeing needs household (i.e. single responsible adult household or 16-17 year old household living alone without any adults) has been retained in regulation, meaning that in some instances a fourth household can also form part of the overall extended household provision. This will ensure that any extended households that were formed under the previous 'support bubble' arrangements can be</p>	<p>Survey responses highlight younger people (18-29) are most likely age group to be worried about their mental health and to feel isolated.</p> <p>People over 70 are more likely to be worried about their health and the risks of contracting COVID-19, but are also more likely to be digitally excluded</p> <p>The ONS lifestyle survey (May 20) found rates of loneliness were highest among working-age adults living alone (eg. 13% of those aged 16-64 living alone reported chronic loneliness compared to 5% in households with two working age adults). Older people were no more likely to be report being lonely, the highest proportions found for young adults.</p>	<p>Communications and guidance should emphasise the risks associated with forming extended households so those forming them are able to make an informed decision to form them.</p> <p>The concept should be communicated to include advice on whether households should be formed with caring and support needs in mind.. This has been shown in New Zealand to mitigate the negative effects of being excluded from an extended household if it is understood others may have greater needs.</p>

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	<p>retained and should mitigate the risk that these particular households will be precluded from arrangements to make way for other households that could not gather under previous restrictions.</p> <p>Negative: People over 70 may be concerned about increased risks to them from a greater mixing of people.</p> <p>Negative: feelings of loneliness may be exacerbated for some if excluded from extended households they wish to form.</p>	<p>Older adults are more likely to be self-isolating and are more worried about getting the virus and becoming seriously ill (PHW wellbeing survey)</p>	
<p>Disability (think about different types of disability)</p>	<p>Positive: extended households will mitigating effects of loneliness and isolation.</p> <p>A further positive effect of this relaxation is that any care or support needs/arrangements can be shared with a wider group of people.</p>	<p>Feedback from carers illustrates a lack of specialist provision for certain groups, such as those caring for some with a learning disability, autism, or dementia, who are less able to understand and cope with disruption to routines</p> <p>A UCL study found those with a mental health diagnosis report experiencing higher levels of loneliness</p>	

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)	Positive: The ability to access support networks, in particular indoors will have been constrained or prevented, with the ability to form extended households potentially providing this support.	No specific evidence identified	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive: Issues of loneliness, isolation or access to support networks will have been constrained.	No specific evidence identified	N/A
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)	Additional risks associated with increasing the number of households permitted to form an extended household for different ethnic groups given evidence of a disproportionate impact on Black Asian minority ethnic individuals.	Range of different evidence on the disproportionate impact on Black Asian minority ethnic communities (e.g. ONS, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic advisory group for WG)	Risks should be communicated and considered when individuals decide to form 'bubbles'. This is particularly the case where a bubble might contain individuals at more risk of spreading the virus, including asymptotically (eg. children returning to school or childcare, or healthcare workers)
Religion, belief and non-belief	No specific differential impacts identified. May be some benefits for more communal prayer within extended households.	N/A	N/A
Sex / Gender	Females are more likely to be self-isolating, very worried about their mental health, feeling anxious and feeling isolated.	Women are the majority of those providing care, paid and unpaid and the majority of health workers and are more	The focus on care and support for extended households should emphasise the need to reduce burdens on those with most need.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	Females are more likely to be providing care at home. The proposal could thus have positive effects in opening up opportunities for support, but could have negative effects if it increases the burden of care by extending it to another household	likely than men to deliver unpaid care at home (Women's Budget Group, COVID-19: Gender and Equality Issues) Working carers, who will have to balance local services returning and caring for a vulnerable person. (Carers UK)	
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	No specific differential impacts identified. Positive: Those living in separate households will be able to form extended households with each other.	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
Children and young people up to the age of 18	Positive: Children will be able to be part of extended households with family and friends, mitigating the negative impacts of separation.	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)	N/A
Low-income households	Positive expanding the extended household rules to include a third household could be of particular benefit to low income	PHW Wellbeing survey: those living in the most deprived areas of Wales are more likely to be self-isolating, be feeling	N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	<p>households struggling with childcare or care needs, as well as addressing higher levels of isolation and worries about mental health.</p> <p>The wellbeing needs household (i.e. single responsible adult household or 16-17 year old household living alone without any adults) has been retained in regulation, meaning that in some instances a fourth household can also form part of the overall extended household provision. This will ensure that any extended households that were formed under the previous 'support bubble' arrangements can be retained and should mitigate the risk that these particular households will be precluded from arrangements to make way for other households that could not gather under previous restrictions.</p>	<p>anxious and isolated during coronavirus restrictions, and report greater worries about their mental health</p>	

Human Rights and UN Conventions

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

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	Positive: expanding the extended household rules to include a third household will make a significant contribution to beginning to restore some family relationships, albeit in a phased manner to continue to protect public health, but in a more proportionate manner.	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.

A relaxation to allow the formation of extended households that involve children could facilitate greater contact with individual family members. This would be unlikely, however, to mitigate the significant restrictions on children meeting and

being able to relax and play in a wide range of activities; though the degree to which this could be mitigated will be dependent on the nature of the extended household. 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 outside of the extended household).

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 direct negative impact on the Welsh language. In general terms the ability to create an extended household could have a positive effect on the use of the Welsh language. This could enable Welsh speakers to interact more regularly meet with other Welsh speakers across Wales and beyond. It could however, make non-Welsh speaking families who had used Welsh medium childcare, or intended to do so, decide to use informal childcare from within their chosen extended household group. Welsh medium education is not directly affected by this proposal, but it might be that pre-school children from non-Welsh speaking homes may be less ready to start school and/or their parents may be less inclined to choose Welsh medium education.

III. Organised Activities

This impact assessment should be read in conjunction with the larger events impact assessment due to the change in regulations that combine the previous organised activities regulations within the Regulated Gatherings provisions within the regulations.

Regulated gatherings encompass a broad range of activities that can be attended by people of any age. These activities include activities that were previously referred to as organised activities and allow for larger scale events, which includes but is not limited to

- Team sports
- Exercise classes
- Meetings of religious groups and support groups
- Guided tours
- Parkrun
- Car boot sales
- Fetes
- Live music concerts
- Food Festivals

Regulated gatherings will vary in size and the capacity for different regulated gatherings will be determined by a risk assessment which includes taking all **reasonable measures** to minimise the risk of exposure to and spread of coronavirus. Reasonable measures includes ensuring social distancing can be maintained.

Maximum numbers who may attend regulated gatherings outdoors is up to 4,000 people of any age (standing) and 10000 people of any age seated.

If the organised activity is taking place indoors, the maximum number of people aged 11 and over that can take part is 30.

Regulated gatherings can include activities such as celebrations, however these must be organised by a business, public body or a charitable, benevolent, educational or philanthropic institution, a club or political organisation, or the national governing body of a sport or other activity. The organiser of the activity must meet requirements in the regulations to undertake a risk assessment and **take all reasonable measures** to minimise the risk of exposure to and spread of coronavirus

Non-regulated gatherings, including celebrations or wider social gatherings of families and friends must follow the arrangements for gathering with other people, which is up to 30 people outdoors. It is important to continue to maintain **social distancing**, including outdoors during these gatherings

Non-regulated gatherings including celebrations or wider social gatherings of families and friends indoors, must follow the arrangements for gathering with other people, which is individual household or extended household only in private homes or up to six people from up to six households (not including children under 11 or carers of these households) in regulated premises. It is important to continue to maintain **social distancing**, including outdoors during these gatherings.

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 people²³. It is

²³ See for example

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 space²⁴. The restrictions for individuals associated with the current restrictions, may limit the associated benefits of participating in arts, sport and culture together.

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

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

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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

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

- For every £1 invested in sport in Wales there is a return of £2.88.
- £3,428m of benefits for Welsh communities was generated from participating and volunteering in sport in 2016/17.
- A breakdown of the overall figure shows the social value of enhanced social capital is £651.47m; enhanced education is £91.15m; and reduced crime is £2.17m. The social value of improved health is £295.17m.

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

- Subjective wellbeing accounts for a significant proportion of the social value generated in Wales (60.6%).
- The sport industry in Wales grew by 10% to £1,142m in 2016/17. The sport sector was found to out-perform pharmaceuticals, travel, accommodation and textiles industries in Wales.
- The sporting economy contributed £1,182m in Consumer Expenditure on Sport and generated 29,700 sport-related jobs in the same year.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

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

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

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

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

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	Positive – access to organised activities has positive impact on	The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting COVID-19	n/a

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	<p>mental and physical well-being.</p> <p>Under 18 organised activities have been taking place for some time and has already had a positive impact. All ages will benefit from this change, but in particular older retired individuals of which some only have contact with other through activities such as Golf, Arts etc.</p>	<p>increases with age, but these are largely mitigated through being outdoors in sunlight, maintaining social distance and good hand hygiene</p>	
Disability (think about different types of disability)	<p>Neutral: generally people with disabilities should be able to access and benefit from the same opportunities as others to engage in more organised activities held outdoors. However, in respect of organised outdoor group activities, they could benefit more from specialised group activities where providers are able to re-commence such activities in accordance with COVID-secure requirements.</p>	<p>Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.</p>	n/a
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning)	<p>No major differential impact expected. However some individuals do</p>	<p>Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more</p>	n/a

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
and Transgender people)	highlight they feel safer training in groups / organised activates rather than in isolation	opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
Pregnancy and maternity	No major differential impact expected, however it may be safer for pregnant women to train under expert supervision rather than on own.	Insufficient data available to form a proper assessment but allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	n/a
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction,	n/a

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
seekers and Refugees)		thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
Religion, belief and non-belief	No differential impact expected	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	n/a
Sex / Gender	Potential for men to benefit more as they have higher participation levels in sport	Reduce loneliness and isolation as provides increased opportunities for safer, social interaction. Will also improve and promote physical and mental wellbeing through undertaking more activity.	n/a
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction, thereby reducing	n/a

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
		loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
Marriage and civil partnership	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	n/a
Children and young people up to the age of 18	Under 18s organised outdoor and indoor activities already allowed.	Under 18s organised outdoor and indoor activities already allowed.	n/a
Low-income households	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	Sport Wales survey conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020: “There are however significant variations within certain demographic groups. There is a net increase in activity levels amongst those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds (+7 percentage points), however there is a net decrease amongst those from lower	n/a

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	backgrounds are engaged in less. Re-enabling activity in this area will widen the scope for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to engage in physical exercise.	socioeconomic backgrounds (-4 percentage points). “Those from lower socio economic backgrounds appear to be experiencing the greatest reductions (LOW SES: More 23% Less 36% = -13 percentage points HIGH SES: More 28% Less 35% = -7 percentage points)”	

Human Rights and UN Conventions

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

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in organised outdoor activities is considered to be positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for safer	n/a

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
with your family and to regular contact)		social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing	

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children and young people **aged under 18** on 31 August 2020 can now take part in organised activities (Regulated gathering) indoors and outdoors with no upper limits placed on the number of children who can attend.

Adults, including volunteers and qualified professionals, may attend these activities where they are involved in running them, where the children are too young to be left or where the activity requires their participation such as a parent and baby group. Adults, including parents, should maintain **social distancing** and adhere to hand and respiratory hygiene rules at all times and wear face coverings indoors (unless they have an exemption), and numbers should be restricted to those required to ensure the safe running of the activity.

These easements have contributed towards the following Articles:

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

Welsh Language

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

IV. Weddings, civil partnerships and wakes

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 1 to 7 March, showed that 27% were worrying about their mental health a lot (31% a little), and 49% said their mental health was worse than before the pandemic. The mental health charity Mind recently published survey evidence 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.²⁵

In an Ipsos survey conducted in mid-March found the activity people miss the most continues to be eating indoors at restaurants (missed by 73%) and socialising with people outside their household (missed by 65%). There is a mixed picture around indoor hospitality comfort, with 50% saying they would be comfortable eating inside a restaurant having been vaccinated, and 30% saying they would not. The same survey suggests that almost a quarter (23%) of working people in Wales have experienced a salary reduction due to the pandemic which is likely to be leading to wider anxieties such as a quarter (23%) reporting anxieties around being able to provide for their families going forward.²⁶

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

²⁵ Mind (2020) The mental health emergency: How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted our mental health?

²⁶ Ipsos (2021) Covid-19 report – Wave 36 [26-30 March]. **DATA FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

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.²⁷

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Economic significance of sector

According to ONS data, the whole of the Food and Beverage Service sector, forming part of the wider supply chain for weddings and similar events, contributed £1.3billion of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy in 2018, equivalent to 2% total GVA for the same year. In 2019 using Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) data, there were an estimated 85,500 people directly employed in the 'Hospitality - Pubs, Cafes and Restaurants' sector in Wales, 6.7% of total employment.²⁸

The wider hospitality sector is also fundamental to the foundation economy. Local companies within the wedding and events industry often use suppliers which source food and drink from local suppliers. There is a clear knock on impact of the closure of the hospitality sector on the food and drink supply sector – for example, 50% of milk that is supplied by farmers generally goes to the hospitality sector. Although there has been a 15% uplift in the domestic consumption this does not make up for the drop from hospitality. Welsh Government has had to step in to support farmers as a result. Analysis from Cardiff University (2010) and The Scottish Government (2019)²⁹ helps give an indicative estimate for indirect (supply chain) employment of between 6,700 and 8,100 additional people, with a similar range (6,500 to 7,600) of employment attributable to induced (spending) effects, although these numbers should be treated with caution. In total, direct, indirect and induced employment in the sector could therefore represent around 87,500 jobs.

Size of sector and its supply chain in Wales

The sector is made up of a wide mix of venues that include country house wedding venues, barn venues, stately homes, castles (some CADW owned), hotels, registry offices, places of worship, attractions and museums, golf courses, events venues,

²⁷ See: <https://voxeu.org/article/impact-covid-19-chronic-health-uk>

²⁸ Defined 2-digit SIC2007 code (56) Restaurants and mobile food service activities and 563 Beverage serving activities.

²⁹ Using 2007, Type I /II employment multiplier of 1.11 and 1.20, respectively, for the 'hotels, bars and restaurants' sector in Wales ([here](#)) and 2016 Type I/II employment multiplier of 1.09 and 1.20, respectively for the 'food & beverage services' sector in Scotland ([here](#)).

sports venues, restaurants and pubs, city venues such as social clubs, outdoor venues and parks.

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

Weddings and other special personal events drive tourism through guests travelling to attend. 2019 saw 2.8 million day visits and 96,000 overnight trips in Wales made by those attending a special personal event (e.g. wedding, christening, graduation), resulting in a total spend by those visitors, including accommodation and all other costs, of £430m.³⁰

Key facts³¹:

Value of sector in Wales

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

Number of WALES Weddings:

13,197 per year

Approx 10,420 weddings postponed in 2020

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

Approx Wedding Industry Workers - WALES³²:

2,580 businesses

18,920 workers

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

Workforce

The workforces in hospitality and tourism tend to be disproportionately lower educated, younger, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers, and command salaries significantly below the Welsh average (median) – many of these are groups that

³⁰ [GBTS and GBDVS data in Regional and Local Profiles 2017-2019](#)

³¹ UK Weddings Taskforce Survey of over 3000 wedding businesses Dec 24th 2020 – 12th Jan 2021

³² Industry intelligence

typically experience the worst persistent impacts on their health, earnings, and employment potential as a result of economic downturns.

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

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

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	Positive: Younger cohorts of the population are significantly more likely to work within this sector in Wales	Analysis by Welsh Government of Annual Population Survey (APS) data for 2019 shows that 46% of workers in pubs, cafes,	Mitigations that the sector have been asked to implement and limited reopening in first instance are aimed at reducing the

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	<p>than older cohorts, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme. This cohort currently represents the age group most at risk from an economic downturn.</p> <p>Negative: The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting COVID-19 increases with age, which should be considered for both staff and customers of the sector.</p>	<p>and restaurants in Wales are under the age of 25 (while this age group only represents 12% of workforce).</p>	<p>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>
Disability (think about different types of disability)	<p>Positive: Disabled population in Wales represent a slightly higher share of employees within the wider Tourism & Hospitality industries than they do in the workforce as a whole, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes</p>	<p>Analysis of APS data for 2019 suggests that disabled people are more represented in this sector in Wales, with 19% of the workforce being classified as disabled (this group represents 15% of the wider workforce).</p>	<p>Welsh Government are aware of potential issues and are engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Risk assessments that businesses need to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate</p>

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	by transferring individuals off the UK's Job Retention Scheme.		impacts on certain groups.
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)	No specific differential impacts identified	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	Negative: Planned reopening of the sector may result in regulated settings being used to increase effective outdoor capacity. It will be important to ensure that this does not create hazardous environments for parents with young children or pushchairs.	N/A	Welsh Government are aware of potential issues and are engaging with appropriate groups in preparation of completing an Integrated Impact Assessment.
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)	Positive: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic populations more likely to work within Tourism & Hospitality in Wales than white population, therefore opening sector could have positive distributional impacts if it prevents potential job losses and increases household incomes by transferring individuals off the	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 12% of workers in pubs, cafes, 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 should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	<p>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>		
Religion, belief and non-belief	Reopening Places of Worship Task and Finish group and the Ceremonies Group have met regularly and advised on the guidance for life event ceremonies such as funerals, baptisms and bar or bat mitzvahs.	Allowing a celebration/reception after a life event ceremony will allow the family and individuals (albeit in a limited way) to have the event they had planned.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
Sex / Gender	Positive: proportion of sector employees who are women slightly higher than for Welsh workforce as a whole.	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 50% of workers in Wales within pubs, cafes, and restaurants are female, while women represent 47% of the total Welsh workforce.	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	No specific differential impact identified.	N/A	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	Reopening Places of Worship Task and Finish group has met regularly and advised	Allowing a celebration/reception after a marriage or civil partnership will allow	The Human Right is to get married, however, by allowing receptions in some

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

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
		<p>gross pay in this sector the median is £197.30, approximately £243.50 lower than the Welsh median.</p> <p>Using the same data at least 80% of employees in Food and Beverage Service Activities are estimated to have lower gross hourly pay than the Welsh median.</p>	

Human Rights and UN Conventions

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

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family)	Positive: Wedding receptions and wakes sometimes take place in hospitality settings so allowing Venues, Pubs, Cafes, and Restaurants to reopen will facilitate the return to work of many employees within	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	No specific negative impacts from the proposal.

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
and to regular contact)	the sector who currently could be earning below the National Living and Minimum Wages due to receiving 80% of their pre-crisis income.	less than the National Living/Minimum wage as a result of being furloughed.	
Article 12 protects the right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to start a family.	Although couples have been able to marry or form a civil partnership in all venues that are approved to hold a ceremony many have chosen not to proceed until they are able to celebrate the event with friends and family.	Allowing receptions/celebrations will allow couples to have the day they had planned albeit with continuing restrictions	No specific negative impacts identified.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The opening of outdoor wedding receptions supports the requirement under Article 31 that all children and young people have a right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of activities. Weddings form part of the provision of experiences and facilities that will be family-orientated that will maximise the outcomes that can be delivered for children and young people.

Welsh Language

There are 127,000 people directly employed in the visitor economy - around 9% of the workforce. The economy is integral to creating the social conditions where Welsh speakers can stay in Welsh-speaking communities, or return to those communities. Many predominantly Welsh-speaking areas are highly dependent on tourism and hospitality for income and employment. A high percentage of tourism and hospitality

businesses are located in Welsh-speaking areas – for example over a third of tourism accommodation businesses are located in local authority areas where more than 40% of the population speak Welsh as a first language.

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

V. 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 or group is set out below.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	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.	Analysis by Welsh Government of Annual Population Survey (APS) data for 2019 shows that 31% of workers in the sports activities sector in Wales are under the age of 25 (while this age group only represents 12% of workforce).	N/A
Disability (think about different types of disability)	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 loneliness and isolation; provide more access to	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).	N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	support; and generally promote wellbeing.		
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)	No differential impacts identified.	As more premises open, people should generally benefit from more opportunities for safer social interaction and opportunities to access services, which will help to reduce loneliness and isolation; provide more access to support; and generally promote wellbeing.	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	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.	As more premises open, they will generally benefit from more opportunities for safer social interaction and opportunities to access services, which will help to reduce loneliness and isolation; provide more access to support; and generally promote wellbeing.	N/A
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum seekers and Refugees)	No differential impacts identified.	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 8% of the workforce within the Sports Activities sector are Black, Asian Minority Ethnic, while this group represents 5% of the overall Welsh workforce.	N/A
Religion, belief and non-belief	No differential impacts identified.		N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
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 wider 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:

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)	Positive: Will provide increased opportunities for families to engage in a range of local activities.	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.	No mitigation required.

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**.

VI. Larger scale 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 people³³. 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 space³⁴.

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.

³³ See for example

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

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 Tracker³⁵ 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 UK level data shows a net engagement score of -5 for 'Catering, Entertainment and Events' (e.g. restaurants, cinema, and festivals). These activities are likely to continue to generate fewer visits, although this is less than in previous reports or amongst residents in Wales³⁶.

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 plans to reduce the level of their contribution to the guarantee from the end of June meaning that employers will be 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 2020³⁷, 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 £1,000,000³⁸.

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

³⁵ https://www.visitbritain.org/sites/default/files/vb-corporate/covid-19_consumer_tracker_wave_30_final.pdf

³⁶ Footnote to follow – Wales profile report being published on Thursday

³⁷ <https://gov.wales/events-industry-and-supply-chain-business-covid-19-impact-survey-12-november-8-december-2020-html>

³⁸ 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.

people are in a worse financial situation as a result of the coronavirus, while 16% report being better off.³⁹ 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.⁴⁰ 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.⁴¹

Events act as a driver for tourism, hospitality 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.

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

³⁹ Public Health Wales (2021) Public Engagement Survey on Health and Wellbeing during Coronavirus Measures: Week 48: 1 – 7 March 2021.

⁴⁰ 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.

⁴¹ Resolution Foundation: [Incomes, savings and spending through the coronavirus crisis](#) November 2020

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

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	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
Disability (think about different types of disability)	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

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)	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 promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	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
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants,	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	N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Asylum seekers and Refugees)		social interaction, thereby reducing loneliness and isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
Religion, belief and non-belief	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
Sex / Gender	Potential for men to benefit more as they have higher participation levels in sport. However male / female attendance at art/cultural 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
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	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	N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
		isolation; and promoting better mental and physical wellbeing.	
Marriage and civil partnership	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
Children and young people up to the age of 18	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
Low-income households	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	Sport Wales survey conducted by Savanta ComRes from 8-12 May 2020: “There are however significant variations within certain demographic groups. There is a net increase in activity	N/A

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	from higher socioeconomic backgrounds are engaged in more physical exercise than before the crisis and those from poorer socio-economic backgrounds are engaged in less. Re-enabling activity in this area will widen the scope for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds to engage in physical exercise.	levels amongst those from higher socioeconomic backgrounds (+7 percentage points), however there is a net decrease amongst those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds (-4 percentage points). “Those from lower socio economic backgrounds appear to be experiencing the greatest reductions (LOW SES: More 23% Less 36% = -13 percentage points HIGH SES: More 28% Less 35% = -7 percentage points)”	

Human Rights and UN Conventions

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

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
The right to enjoy family relationships without	No differential impact expected.	Allowing more opportunities to engage in events is considered to be	N/A

Human Rights	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate negative Impacts?
interference from government (e.g. right to live with your family and to regular contact)		positive for everyone; as it will increase opportunities for social interaction, thereby reducing 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**.

VII. Residential education 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.⁴²

The value of educational visits to learner wellbeing, particularly during a year when there have been significant restrictions on travel, social mixing, educational experiences is recognised – school headteachers have been asking for easements to be made to allow residential educational visits to support pupil welfare and wellbeing.

The Children’s Commissioner for Wales’ ‘Coronavirus and Me’ survey of children and young people has shown that 76% of Year 6 year old respondents felt that saying goodbye to their primary school was important as part of the transition to secondary school. Likewise, 53% of 12-178 year old respondents noted that they were sad about missing out on experiences they were looking forward to.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

General economic impacts

In 2018 the whole of the Accommodation sector was worth £820 million of gross value added (GVA) to the Welsh economy, equivalent to 1.3% total GVA for the same year. In 2019 the sector employed approximately 32,000 across Wales⁴³ 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 output between February and December 2020⁴⁴. 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. Similarly, touring caravan pitch occupancy was 43% in 2019 but only 32% in 2020.⁴⁵

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.⁴⁶ Along with Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation it remains one of the areas of the UK economy that has been most severely impacted throughout the

⁴² Mental Health Foundation: [Coronavirus: mental health and the pandemic Wave 9: December 2020](#)

⁴³ BRES data will be used for employment figures. 2019 data for SIC group 55: Accommodation

⁴⁴ ONS [GDP published 12 February 2021](#).

⁴⁵ Visit Wales [Accommodation Occupancy report 2019](#)

⁴⁶ Covering 25 January - 7 February 2021.

health pandemic and associated restrictions. 8 in 10 UK businesses were trading in late April 2021 but only 6 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.⁴⁷ As expected these two sectors continue to report having the most significant drops in business turnover, with 6 in 10 Accommodation and Food services businesses and two thirds of Arts, Entertainment and Recreation businesses reporting a decrease in turnover vs normal, compared with a third of UK businesses overall.⁴⁸

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.

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 use shared (school) transport and that schools are advised to minimise travel time.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Equality impacts

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

⁴⁷ 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%.

⁴⁸ The percentage of businesses in the UK reporting a loss in turnover was 61% for the Accommodation and Food Services sector, 67% for the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector, and 34% for the all-sector UK average.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Age (think about different age groups)	<p>Positive: Allowing residential educational visits 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 the classroom environment. Opening up residential visits 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).</p> <p>Negative: The risk of negative health outcomes associated with contracting COVID-19 as more learners mix, however schools will be required to ensure pupils are kept within their</p>		<p>Mitigations that the sector have been asked to implement and limited reopening in first instance are aimed at reducing the risk of transmission for all groups; customers and staff.</p> <p>Risk assessments that schools and the relevant residential accommodation are asked to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</p>

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	specific contact groups, so the additional risks presented by the easement are considered to be low, particularly given that we envisage that the demand for undertaking visits during the period from now until the end of the school term (12 July) is likely to be limited.		
Disability (think about different types of disability)	No specific differential impacts identified.	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).	N/A
Gender Reassignment (the act of transitioning and Transgender people)	No specific differential impacts identified.	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity	N/A	N/A	N/A
Race (include different ethnic minorities, Gypsies and Travellers and Migrants, Asylum	Neutral: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals make up a proportional share of employees in	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 5% of workers in accommodation in Wales are	Guidance and promoted mitigations are designed to reduce the risk of transmission for all

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
seekers and Refugees)	<p>the accommodation sector as they do of the wider workforce.</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>	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (this group only represents 5% of the Welsh workforce).	<p>groups, including customers and staff.</p> <p>Risk assessments that businesses are asked to conduct should be used to identify disproportionate risks to certain groups.</p>
Religion, belief and non-belief	No specific differential impacts identified.	N/A	N/A
Sex / Gender	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).	Analysis of APS data for 2019 estimates that 53% of workers in Wales within the accommodation sector are female, while women represent 47% of the total Welsh workforce.	No perceived negative impacts to mitigate.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
Sexual orientation (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual)	No specific differential impacts identified.	N/A	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	No specific differential impacts identified.	N/A	N/A
Children and young people up to the age of 18	<p>Positive: Allowing residential school trips 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 the classroom environment.</p> <p>Negative: Adults employed the accommodation sector could have childcare responsibilities with the sector due to open before schools shut for the summer holidays (although an extension is available at Local Authorities discretion). Traditional forms of childcare may have been disrupted by</p>	Welsh Government analysis suggests that 5,600 adults employed within the accommodation sector have children under the age of 16.	The Welsh Government has eased restrictions on childcare sector with a view to easing the pressures on families who may have adults who need to return to physical premises to work.

Protected characteristic or group	What are the positive or negative impacts of the proposal?	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)	How will you mitigate Impacts?
	current lockdown restrictions.		
Low-income households	Positive: Opening up the sector could have 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).	<p>Provisional data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provides estimates for hourly and weekly gross pay by 2-digit SIC codes in Wales. For Accommodation (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, approximately £160.50 lower than the Welsh median.</p> <p>Using the same data at least 75% of employees in Accommodation are estimated to have lower gross hourly pay than the Welsh median.</p>	No perceived negative impacts to mitigate.

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:

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

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).

Opening up the sector should have a general positive impact linked to parental income:

- **Article 18** – Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.
- **Article 27** – Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this

In meeting obligations under **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) we have considered the Coronavirus and Me survey of over 23,700 children and young people aged 3-18 in Wales. In relation to the right to relax and play, many children mentioned positives around having more time to play, highlighting the chance to forget about coronavirus and enjoying more freedom. The top two responses from young people (12-18) on which stay at home rules have impacted 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%). These findings could be positively supported through a combination of recently introduced extended households and the reopening of accommodation facilitating holidays.

Welsh Language

The proposals to reopen accommodation 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, and creating favourable conditions for the Welsh language, as set out in **Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers**.