



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

16 June 2020

Dear Mark,

Re: Tourism in Porthcawl

Following the letter you received last week from the Secretary of State for Wales, I wanted to write to you to voice my concerns about the future of the tourism, hospitality, and leisure industry in Porthcawl.

I am concerned about the effect lockdown will have on the tourism industry in Porthcawl and across the rest of Wales, especially as it seems that Wales will be in lockdown for longer than in England.

Businesses need more certainty about the timeframe of an exit strategy in Wales from the Welsh Government. I believe that the strategy needs to include timescales and milestones to offer hope to the people of Wales, as well as a significant ramping up of testing with only a quarter of the testing capacity in Wales currently being used.

Many business owners from the Porthcawl area have contacted me to say they fear there will not be much of a tourism industry left here without that much-needed support from your Government.

As you know, tourism is worth £4.8bn annually to the Welsh economy and if we are to encourage people to "Visit Wales. Later" you must make sure that there is going to be a "Later" for these industries so that they can bounce back and help restart the Welsh economy.

Whilst I appreciate the safeguarding measures in place in Wales are necessary to protect public health, will you commit to keeping the 2-meter social distancing rules under continual review? In doing so, the Welsh Government will be able to act as soon as the science allows and this will ensure there is no unnecessary delay to relaxing a rule which is crippling many businesses.

As you know, there are calls for the distance to be lowered to 1-meter as it is in other countries, something we both know could make the difference to the viability of many businesses. Whilst we all accept this can only be done when it is safe to do so, it would be reassuring to know that the Welsh Government will be quick to act as soon as it can.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Dr Jamie Wallis MP

Jamie.wallis.mp@parliament.uk |

01656 330142

Office of Dr. Jamie Wallis MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA