

Vaughan Gething AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

Lee Waters AS/MS  
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: VG/0302/20

Cardiff Wales Airport  
BAR UK (the Board of Airline representatives)  
AOA (the Airport Operators Association)  
ABTA (the Association of British Travel Agents)  
ABI (the Association of British Insurers)

10 September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

## **TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF CORONAVIRUS AND THE IMPACT ON THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC**

The Welsh Government has used its public health powers to introduce local coronavirus restrictions in Caerphilly County borough in response to a rapid increase in cases to control the spread of the virus in Wales and further afield and protect public health. This includes restrictions on travelling beyond the borough's boundaries, including travelling overseas.

The restrictions are made under regulations and have the full power of UK law. It is therefore incumbent on the travel and insurance industries take the necessary steps to mitigate the financial impact of the restrictions on members of the travelling public whose travel plans are disrupted as a result.

The relevant legislation in respect of the local lockdown in the Caerphilly County Borough area is set out at:

- [\*\*The Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(No. 2\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 8\) \(Caerphilly\) Regulations 2020\*\*](#)

The guidance/FAQs relating to these regulations is available at:

- [\*\*Local coronavirus rules in Caerphilly County Borough\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Caerphilly County coronavirus lockdown: frequently asked questions\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Caerphilly Council area map: lockdown\*\*](#)

Other extant regulations, which are relevant to controlling the spread of coronavirus in Wales are available on the Welsh Government website.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)  
[Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lee.Waters@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lee.Waters@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

One of the consequences of the restrictions in the Caerphilly County Borough area to control an increase in coronavirus cases and prevent its spread to other parts of Wales and further afield, is a restriction on travel into or out of the area.

In particular, people affected by the regulations will not be able to travel out of the borough to go on holiday for the time being. As a result, there will be travel disruption for residents who have holidays/flights booked in the coming weeks, which will impact on them financially.

This comes at a time when people are already under financial stress as a result of the virus and its economic impact. We expect the travel industry and the insurance industry to respond positively to the situation and refund any payments made for holidays and flights booked, which cannot be taken as a result of the change in the public health situation in the area and the corresponding change in the law in Wales.

In addition to the position faced by residents of Caerphilly County Borough, you will need to consider the impact of attempting to require residents – perhaps because they have been unable to claim a refund for their holiday – to board flights they have pre-booked. Given the evidence of community transmission within the Caerphilly County Borough area, if residents do board planes they represent an increased health risk to fellow travellers and staff. That risk is heightened if arrangements are not introduced that provide for refunds for citizens who are complying with a legal requirement not to travel.

We also want to draw your attention to the fact the Welsh Government has acted on a Wales-only basis to make international travel regulations in relation to specific countries with high prevalence rates of coronavirus, because of an increase of imported cases. These regulations are also included on the Welsh Government website for reference.

The Welsh Government will continue to make regulations in respect of quarantine requirements and will add or remove counties and territories, as necessary, depending on the risk of transmission.

We look forward to an early response outlining your position. This is, as you would expect, a matter of significant public interest and growing commentary.

If there is anything in the regulations or related guidance that you would like to discuss, please get in touch with us or with our officials.

Yours sincerely,



**Vaughan Gething AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



**Lee Waters AS/MS**  
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a  
Thrafnidiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport