



All Heads of Planning
Local Planning Authorities

28 July 2021

Dear colleagues

CORONAVIRUS COVID 19 – UPDATE ON RELAXATION OF ENFORCEMENT OF CONDITIONS RELATING TO RETAIL DISTRIBUTION

On 13 March 2020, I wrote to you regarding the need to be mindful of the pressures on the food supply chain as a result of the exceptional challenges facing Wales as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Welsh Government continues to work with food industry representatives to ensure supermarkets and other food retailers are able to maintain supply chains. Through these discussions, it is apparent that there remains continued pressure on driver availability largely as a result of, EU Exit, with many European drivers deciding to no longer work in the UK.. There is a risk that returning to strict enforcement of planning conditions which constrain delivery times will result in disruption to food supply chains. Therefore, the flexibility local planning authorities have shown to food retailers and distributors, enabling them accept deliveries throughout the day and night, should be maintained at this time. This position will remain under regular review and this guidance may be withdrawn once driver numbers stabilise.

Where significant detrimental impacts upon residential amenity on individual sites occur as a result of extended deliveries, local planning authorities should engage with the business to agree mitigation measures. Local planning authorities retain the ability to enforce conditions where mitigation measures cannot alleviate adverse impacts on residential amenity significantly over the level of disturbance usually prevented through the planning system.

In respect of food store opening hours, due to the successful Welsh vaccine programme, the risk of exposure to, and the resultant health impacts of, coronavirus has been significantly reduced. As a result, food retailers are no longer under pressure to vary opening hours to reduce congested periods. I therefore expect those stores who have extended their opening hours to revert, by 1 September 2021, to the times set out in the

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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.

planning conditions for the site. Where local planning authorities are aware that retailers have operated extended opening hours, they should write to advise them that conditions may be enforced from 1 September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change