

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/03891/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

14 July 2020

Dear Janet,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 were amended (effective 22 June) to allow places of worship to open for the purposes of solemnisation of marriage and the formation of civil partnership and for participants and invited guests to travel, gather and enter a building for that purpose. This means that it is now possible to conduct ceremonies in places of worship and Register Offices.

Other venues which commonly conduct weddings are not able to conduct ceremonies as they are required to remain closed under the current regulations. This change to the Regulations reflects the points you raise about the importance of being able to marry or form a civil partnership for legal and spiritual reasons. It means that all those who wish to, have an avenue to marriage or civil partnership in a faith or non-faith setting.

We have been working with Registrars and the faith community to develop guidance which we will publish shortly. This guidance will stress the distinction between the formal ceremony which establishes the legal basis of the marriage or civil partnership and the social gathering which many wish to enjoy as part of their wedding. Public health considerations do not allow us to go further and allow the social gathering to take place at this stage, so the dispensation will allow limited events with social distancing measures at their core.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
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Minister for Health and Social Services

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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.