

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1135
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00747/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair Senedd Cymru Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

10 February 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Petitions Committee seeking views on the issues raised in P-05-1135 regarding funding for residential outdoor education centres now unable to operate for 12 months, before your formal consideration.

I appreciate these are incredibly difficult and uncertain times for residential centres and those businesses in the tourism and leisure sector. I recognise the importance of outdoor learning and activities in the education of children and young people, and the value visits and trips impart not just in relation to educational purposes but also to the well-being of children and young people. I have heard first-hand from providers, schools, learners and parents about the positive difference such experiences can make.

The guidance in relation to trips organised by educational settings in Wales is being kept under review. Our current position in relation to such trips remains in line with the UK Governments' advice which continues to advise against all education trips for children under 18 organised by educational settings. You will be aware of the updated guidance in relation to non-overnight domestic visits and residential centres, linked [here](#), and how consideration must be given to operational guidance for schools, [here](#).

I assure you that we are absolutely committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs. Policy officials have regular contact with representatives to discuss our guidance and additional funding available for the sector.

Further to the range of grants that many centres have previously been eligible for under our Wales-only Economic Resilience Fund and business rates grants, on Friday 29 January, we further enhanced our package of support to businesses affected by alert level four restrictions by £200m to take its total to £650m. The Restrictions Business Fund (RBF) Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and Discretionary based grants for non-essential retail, hospitality,

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@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.

leisure and tourism (NERHLT) sectors (and their supply chain businesses) has been extended to provide a single top up payment to cover the period between the 25 January and end of March 2021 for businesses affected by national restrictions.

Business will be able to access the registration and application process to access the funding through the Business Wales and Local Authority websites.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

Most businesses should also be able to access certain support available from the UK Government – including the Job Retention Scheme:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Addysg

Minister for Education