

Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

22nd October 2020

Dear Mr Skates,

Throughout the first lockdown and since our cities reopened FOR Cardiff, Newport Now and Swansea BID, as well as all other BID teams across Wales, have been engaging extensively with our member across all sectors to assess the severity of the strain Covid-19 has put upon them and how we can provide support.

Whilst we would never question the science behind the Welsh Government's decision to go into a 'fire break' lockdown, and we understand and agree that the safety of the public is paramount and must be the priority, we do appeal to you and the Welsh Government to consider the following points and make any necessary reassessments.

1. The impact that this shut down will have upon the economy, and the importance of providing the right levels of further financial support for the full 2 weeks, particularly to those in the retail and hospitality sectors. The uncertainty about how and when they will be able to pay their staff, suppliers etc could be the final nail in the coffin for many businesses and leave our cities with bleak economic landscapes.
2. Christmas is a vital time of year for many sectors and we ask for clarification of when retail and hospitality will be able to trade as freely as possible and that an evidence-based approach is used. For example, eradicating the 10pm closure time and enabling businesses to have a 1 metre plus distancing rule rather than 2. This would increase the number of covers they can accommodate and avoid demonising sectors as the root of cases when data does not support this.
3. Clarification on what happens if the Welsh Government's appeal to UK Government to bring the Job Support Scheme forward is unsuccessful, as it so appears.

As Wales' three largest cities, Cardiff, Swansea, and Newport are crucial to the economic success of the country and we hope that you and the Welsh Government hear and understand the severity of this situation for us and other BID locations across the nation.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Field
Executive Director
FOR Cardiff



Russell Greenslade
CEO
Swansea BID



Kevin Ward
BID Manager
Newport Now