



Gwynedd Hospitality
gwyneddhospitality@gmail.com

20/12/2020

Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear First Minister

RE: COVID19 measures placed against hospitality and tourism

We are writing to you on behalf of the hospitality and tourism sector in Gwynedd and North West Wales concerned about Welsh Government's ongoing policies placed against us. Gwynedd Tourism has grown to over 250 members in just 48 hours. We are deeply worried about the emergency lockdown we now all find ourselves- our remaining Christmas trade has now ended. It was not acceptable to give us just seven hours notice of these latest changes. Your comments saying "The economy will recover" were also concerning and felt out-of-touch from the reality we face on the ground. Many of our businesses hang by a thread. Your one size-fits-all, blanket approach in Wales is damaging our pubs, restaurants, cafes, bars, hotels, holiday lets and other businesses.

We recognise the challenges that exist in the management of COVID-19, especially where it is acutely felt in the south of Wales. We recognise how unbelievably difficult it is for you and leaders across the United Kingdom. We are not against COVID-19 measures either- our businesses have spent a lot of money ensuring we are compliant with the law and are contributing to the national effort to control the virus. But we want it to be noted that in Gwynedd and North West Wales, there has been low levels of virus transmission due to the hard work of local people. Anglesey has 40 cases per 100,000, Gwynedd 77 cases per 100k and Conwy 85. To have such extreme measures placed against the industry, an industry worth billions of pounds to the local economy, feels disproportionate to the threat posed to us.

Hospitality is the biggest private sector employer in the area and we help fund the public services we all rely on. We predominantly serve rural communities and therefore collectively help combat social problems too such as loneliness and isolation. And our businesses truly are at the heart of our local communities and we want that to continue. But your measures are doing irreversible damage to the sector.

Gwynedd, Anglesey and Conwy have a COVID-19 situation that is under control. If we were to be using a tier system, we would likely be in Tier 1 or Tier 2. Under your latest tiering report, we would be Tier

2 which would allow businesses to sell alcohol with a substantial meal until 10pm. Whether Tier 1 or Tier 2, we could at least operate and begin the slow road back to recovery. We understand you seek to take a regional tiered approach as we come out of Tier 4 restrictions, but this needs immediate implementation.

This national lockdown for the whole of Wales affects North West Wales acutely for a problem that predominantly affects the South. This lockdown brings further anxiety and uncertainty to the hospitality and tourism sector, without an end in sight. It is a disproportionate course of action. Many businesses have not traded for many weeks as the ban of the sale of alcohol rendered them unviable. We do not know whether many businesses will emerge from this latest lockdown and should the alcohol ban remain in place till Spring, as the Western Mail reported, then that likelihood increases.

We write to you asking for the following to be implemented in Gwynedd and North West Wales:

- Ending the Wales-wide Tier 4 national lockdown restrictions in North West Wales, while the transmission of the virus remains stable and low.
- Moving to a regional tier approach immediately which recognises the prevalence of COVID-19 in each area with Gwynedd and North West Wales placed in a low tier.
- Publish the evidence behind hospitality causing the spike in infections.
- Ending the ban on the sale of alcohol for hospitality.
- Provide financial assistance for every week of lost trade.
- Consult with businesses and publish a Covid Hospitality Recovery Plan.

Many businesses have ceased trading for good and many jobs have been lost. There is an immediate need to take action and would welcome any efforts to engage with us to implement the aforementioned actions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Representatives of Gwynedd Hospitality

Signatories:

Charlie Evans, Founder, *Gwynedd Hospitality*

Steve Pooley, Owner, *Bryn Melyn Farm Cottages*, Llandderfel, Bala

Linda Rich, Owner, *The Bryntirion Inn*, Llandderfel, Bala

Elaine Russell, Hotel General Manager, *Bala Lake Hotel*, Bala

Simon Kondal, Owner, *Glyn Mawr Cottages*, Bala

Alana Webber-Jones and Ian Wyn Jones, Owners, *Tegfan*, Llanberis

Kathy Quiligotti, Owner, *Nefyn Cottage*, Nefyn

Margaret Dewdney, Owner, *Ty Hen and Bron Haul Holiday Cottages*, Blaenau Ffestiniog

Karen Dobson, Owner, *Caer Menai Guest House*, Caernarfon

Jane Lacey, Owner, *Tany Gader B&B*, Dolgellau

Lucy Thornevell. Owner, *Bwthyn Heulog Cottage*, Dyffryn

Lynne Maylor, Owner, *The Egryn*, Abersoch Richard Bond,
Owner, *Finest Retreats*

Dawn and Gareth Roberts, Owners, *Pendre Garden Centre and Cafe Rosa*, Tywyn

Joanne Rawlinson, Owner, *Gorlys Holiday Let*, Morfa Bychan, Trem y Dyffryn, Llan
Ffestiniog Sharon Ellis, Owner, *Gwynfryn Farm Holidays*, Pwllheli

Annmarie O'Connor, Owner, *The Little White House and Old School House*, Bala

Lynne and Steve Ellison, Owners, *North Wales Escape FHL*, Clynnog Fawr Julie
Michell, Owner, *Pen Glan Cottage*, Dolgellau

Lowri Jones, Manager, *Penmaen Properties*, Pwllheli

Sian Trevor, *Hendre Caravan Park*, Pwllheli

Nerys Jones and Andrew Thomas, Owners, *Tan Parc*, Morfa

Nefyn Jane Emlyn Jones, *Maes Madog Holiday Cottages*, Llanwrst

Debbie Carter, Proprietor, *North Wales Properties*

Anne McKenna, Owner, *Benllech Holidays Accommodation*

Kay Cannon. Owner, *Ycwtewinedd* and Employee, *Buffers Café*, Pwllheli

Geraint and Jane Evans, Owners, *Llawrbetws Caravan Park and Llawrbetws Uchaf Holiday Let*, Glan
yr Afon, Corwen

Sara and Medwyn Thomas, Owners, *Glampio Cefn Ffynnon Glamping*, Pandy Tudur

Jill Lightfoot, *Costume Company UK Ltd & Hogs Harvest*, Glanrafon, Corwen

Stephanie Hickish, *Caerau Gardens*, Sarnau, Bala Michelle Wells, *Snowdon
Cottages*, Bala

David Brown, *Bryn Melyn Apartments*, Barmouth

Paul and Jill Clarke, Owners, *Church Bay Camping, Cottages & Touring*, Anglesey.

James Bourne, Owner, *Barmouth Properties Ltd*, Barmouth

Iain Paterson, Owner, *Lounge Holidays*, Tywyn and

Barmouth Marie Jones, Director, *Private Cottages Ltd*

Gary Thomas, Owner, *Pencefn Cottage Holidays*, Sarnau, Bala

Joe Swiffen, *Mynydd Sleddog Adventures Ltd*, South Alwen Forest,

Conwy David Brown, *Bryn Melyn Apartments*, Barmouth Scott Paterson,

Salt Marsh Kitchen, Tywyn

Paul and Jill Clarke, Owners, *Church Bay Cottages Camping & Touring Site*, Anglesey.

Linda Short, Owner, *Bryn Teg House* and Operator, *Tyddyn Gyrfa Cottage*, Cemaes Bay Anglesey

Purdy Pearce, *Scarlett Cabin Glan Gwna*, Caernarfon

Michele Bradford, Owner, *Ynyslawd Marina Apartment*,

Holyhead Lucille Green, Owner, *Foelas Arms*, Pentrefoelas

Elle Grime, *The House On The Corner*, Morfa Nefyn

Teresa Fuller, Owner, *The Mill Holiday Let*, Clynnog Fawr

Nigel Edwards, Manager, *Cross Foxes*, Dolgellau Susan

Hughes, *Breeze Hill Hotel*, Benllech

Mick and Kath Fleming, *Groeslwyd Holiday Cottage*, Pencoed, Corwen, Denbighshire

Mark and Kim Joynson, Owners, *Pwllheli Marina Cottage* Graeme Harrold, *Llyn Spa*

Care, Pen Llyn

Karen Fairburn, Owner, *Gadlys Coastal Cottages*, Anglesey

Julia Hughes-Roberts, Owner, *Minforrd Cottages*, Anglesey

Liz Owen, Owner, *Dafarn Rhos Cottages*, Anglesey, Adam

Wilkinson, Owner, *Lakeview Café*, Bala David Brown, *Bryn*

Melyn Apartments, Barmouth

Lisa French, *Aberlovely Holidays Self Catered Holiday Lets*, Aberdovey

Anna and Miles James, *Yr Helyg Willows - Maes Carafanau a Glampio*, Mynytho

Chris Atkinson, *The Sun Inn*, Llanengan

Ros Emery, *Bwthyn y Mor, Llanfair & Sun View Lodge 4*,

Llanbedr Heather Drake, Proprietor, *Bron View Holiday Cottage*

Iwan Parry, Owner, *Plas Coch Hotel*, Bala

Teleri Pugh, Owner, *Bwythyn Glanllyn Self-Catering*, Bala

Andrea Willian, *The Hollies and Y Cwtch*, Llanbedrog

Lorraine Franklin, *Swan y Don Holiday Let*, Anglesey

Jane Morgan, Owner, *Plas Colwyn*, Beddgelert

Mehmet Ilik Cakiroglu, *Cyfnod Café and Bistro*, Bala

Jon Harris, Owner and Director, *HG Café Limited*, Bangor

Olwen Stevenson, *Capel Bach*, Waunfawr

Mark and Jane Lacey, Owners, *Tan y Gader B&B*, Dolgellau

Rhys Gardner, General Manager, *The Tal-y-Cafn*, Colwyn Bay

Mike Hales, Owner, *Imagine Inns, The Tal-y-Cafn*, Colwyn Bay

Michele Bradford, Owner, *Ynyslawd Marina Holiday Apartment*

Alan Harper-Smith, Owner, *Wern Fawr Manor Farm Self-Catering Holiday Cottages*, Llanbedrog

Caroline Richards, Owner, *The Berwyn Restaurant*, Llandrillo

Roland Fawcett, Owner, *Llechwedd Holiday Let*, Morfa

Nefyn Samantha Jones, *Swyn y Mor*, Barmouth Susan Gould,

Hendre Fechan Cottage, Talybont

Sian Mckinney, Owner, *Chocks Away Diner*, Flintshire

Samantha Rogers and Sion McGuinness, Owners, Aran Hufen Ia,

Bala Anthony Hobson, Owner, Y Gwynedd Bar and Diner, Llanberis

Lisa Davidson, Araul Holiday Let, Nefyn

Ros Emery, *Self-Catering Properties, Sun View Lodge 4, Llanbedr and Bwthyn y Mor*, Llanfair

Delyth Edwards, *Bryn Goleu, Bontddu*, Dolgellau