

*“Since the restrictions were eased in England, in Wales, although we’re technically meant to be under the lockdown for another 3 weeks, things do seem to have changed – going to the supermarket, there’s no queues outside any more or restrictions on the number of people that can come in. I think people are thinking that it doesn’t matter anymore, I think because it’s been lifted there. But it’s been extended in Wales for a reason.”*

(Wrexham, 18-45)

## Views on UK and Welsh Government responses to the pandemic

- **Participants voiced regret and concern that the UK is no longer taking a joined-up approach to managing the pandemic across all four nations.**
  - All participants voiced a strong preference for a joined-up, UK-wide response. It was felt that taking different approaches has caused confusion and risks leading to an increase in the spread of the virus.
    - This viewpoint was amplified for participants in Wrexham given their proximity to the border and connectivity to Chester (e.g. for work).

*“Why can’t we just have the same rule for every area? I’m so confused, I’m just staying in most of the time because you don’t know what’s what. It’s just all a little confusing. I don’t understand why the 4 countries have gone their separate ways.”*

(Rhondda, 45+)
- **Despite this, participants widely supported the decision to extend the lockdown in Wales.**
  - Participants blamed the UK Government for the lack of a joined-up response. The easing of lockdown restrictions in England was felt to have come too soon, leading to concerns about the impact this could have in increasing the spread of the virus and a potential ‘second peak’.
    - This connects to a continued sense that the UK Government’s response to the pandemic has been lacking.
  - By contrast, the decision to extend the lockdown in Wales was felt to have been the correct decision for Wales. As in the previous wave of research, this was seen as a symbol that the Welsh Government is taking an active role in decision making and acting in the best interests of Wales.
 

*“The [approach] in England is standing out to me. I think [Boris Johnson] wants the second wave to come in now. I honestly think Mark Drakeford is going around it the right way. But not everyone is perfect. Yes, Mark Drakeford might, like Boris, get things wrong, but for the moment I take my hat off to him.”*

(Rhondda, 45+)