

Social Monitoring Report – Monday 2nd November

- The majority of inbound messages to Welsh Government accounts were related to the firebreak regulations, in particular in relation to the announcement that England will enter a four-week lockdown on 5 November. Much of the discussion centred on what England's measures mean for Wales. There was also discussion about the economy, in particular the financial impact on businesses and employees of both the firebreak and England's lockdown, as well as testing.

Topic mentions in Wales:

- **Firebreak** – The majority of messages were from individuals asking how the new measures set to come into force in England will affect the firebreak in Wales. There were some messages praising Welsh Government for acting sooner than England to introduce tight measures to control the virus, however some also suggested that Wales has not taken enough action in light of England's longer lockdown.
- **Economy** – Discussion again centred on what England's new lockdown will mean for Wales, particularly for Welsh businesses. Some were worried that English businesses being close will affect supply chains for Welsh businesses. Others also discussed the extension of the furlough scheme, as well as what help will be provided by Welsh Government to the tourism industry.
- **Testing** – There continues to be scepticism from some individuals regarding the way in which deaths from Covid-19 are recorded and reported. There were also a number of messages calling on Welsh Government to improve testing and tracing to avoid further lockdowns after the firebreak period ends.

Snapshot of other top issues

Firebreak

If Boris Johnson calls a national lockdown as it now seems he will, will Wales be in that lockdown or do we still come out of firebreak on the 9th of November?

Welsh Government come on!!!! 2 weeks isn't long enough. You need to do the right thing and follow England now. After the firebreak we will be getting the English coming to Wales to use the shops/pubs etc open here

And our fire break lockdown is still ending on the 9th of November? Even though the figures are so high? What and everything will go back to "Normal" I really don't understand. Surely this situation needs to be monitored? I would get it if the cases were plummeting, but they aren't! They are still on the rise in Wales this has done nothing and has not been long enough!! England now in lockdown from the 5th Nov,

this doesn't make sense to me at ALL. I don't feel safe what so ever. My condolences go to the families still all affected.

@fmwales @WelshGovernment Please don't extend the firebreak. You've made a commitment and asked us to do the same. @Keir_Starmer was wrong to say you'd extend. He's not your boss. Please don't throw away the trust you asked people to place in you & the government because English Labour or Boris say so.

@WelshGovernment You absolutely made the right decision in terms of the firebreak. Just don't make the same mistake as last time and ease it too soon.

@fmwales in light of the new measures england are hoping to bring in on Thursday, what are the plans to stop tourists visiting from across the boarder once our fire break ends ?

As much as I was skeptical about this firebreak, after seeing England going into a 4 week (potentially longer) lockdown I do think drakeford made the right choice. But i hope he won't extend/create new harsh restrictions cos the small businesses must survive!

Economy

As a manufacturer in wales for 34 years supplying retail shops across the uk we desperately need furlough back to survive. Without it we put at risk 10 jobs. This is critical for us to survive. To the point we have considered moving out of wales as we are so close to the border. We need HELP Businesses need the help that they get in England. Being so close to the border this is so frustrating. Seems no place for small business in wales 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇬🇧

Why are we worse of on lower furlough than English employees????

It amazes me that there's absolutely no recognition of the catastrophe that tourism businesses face. @fmwales @KenSkatesMS or anyone in @WelshGovernment we need your help! <https://twitter.com/jjjj86/status/1322636572534198273>

@fmwales @WelshGovernment This is a right mess now England in lockdown as Wales comes out . You couldn't make this up .Businesses now need more financial support as we now have now lost all the English trade coming into Wales .

@vaughanething @WelshGovernment While you are waiting for an answer, perhaps you could let us know what you're going to do rescue tourism and hospitality business who are on the brink of collapse having been shut for an extended period?

Testing

11 deaths are probably- 4 cancer 3 heart attack 1 suicide 1 pneumonia 1 motorcycle accident 1 unknown All have had "positive" test results within 28 days though so have to be used to bump up the numbers to add to the scaremongering going on

Fascinating to read these posts. I work in a covid clinic, a friend works in a covid ICU, and for people to genuinely believe that there is no test, that it's all a scam, that we're all either stupid or lying, everyone all over the world, so many different governments and health authorities and patients and their grieving families, it blows my mind that the thing, the only thing, that makes sense to you is that it's fake. Wow.

@fmwales how about making track and trace compulsory in supermarkets as small businesses got to do it, makes sense with the amount of people using a supermarket even a nhs qr code would be great #allabouttrackandtrace

@fmwales Please localise test trace. Reduce isolation to 7 days to ensure greater compliance. Make masks compulsory 7yrs upwards. Consider isolation hospitals so those who need NHS for other illnesses can be treated. People are dying of other diseases.NHS is there to protect US .

@PublicHealthW Why are test numbers still at only 50% of the capacity promised by @fmwales in July. Track and trace is key to controlling this virus!

Sentiment

- Sentiment in inbound messages to Welsh Government over the weekend was mostly negative with some neutral on both Facebook, and mostly neutral with some negative on Twitter.

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Negative	671	Neutral	1.1K
Neutral	642	Negative	996
Positive	483	Positive	665