

To: Rt. Hon Mark  
Drakeford MS

First Minister for Wales

**Via email only**

16 October 2020

Dear First Minister,

I write on behalf of the 23000+ children who shared their views with us during the height of the first national lockdown in May. The original survey findings and full data set have already been shared with your Government in full. I decided more analysis was required of the results from certain groups of children and young people, as I have made it my mission during the pandemic to support those who don't have a voice to be heard.

Over the last 3 weeks, I've published my analysis on the survey results from:

- [BAME children and young people](#);
- [15 – 18 year olds](#); and
- [Disabled children](#).

This powerful evidence clearly shows that the pandemic has had a significantly more negative impact on some children's lives than others. As you'll see from the recommendations included in all three briefings, I'm urging the Welsh Government and other bodies to work hard on limiting the impact of new measures on our most vulnerable children, some of whom felt stranded and scared without the support they needed earlier in the year. I have also made some commitments about how my own organisation will respond.

Children and young people who shared their views and experiences with us so honestly have a right for their views to be listened to by Government. Any new measures must now be assessed and considered with this evidence in mind so that every decision will be assessed on every aspect of children's lives, not just their right to health.

The issues raised in the reports cross a wide range of portfolios across the Welsh Government and I'd therefore welcome wide dissemination and discussion of the reports. I'd also be grateful if all Ministers and deputies could be reminded that the Welsh Government has access to the full data set from the survey to draw upon in all policy and decision making work, including children's rights impact assessments.



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Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg yn ogystal â'r Saesneg ac mewn amryw o fformatau  
We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh and English as well as alternative formats

I would welcome the Government's response to these recommendations in due course and an update on how the information gleaned via the 'Coronavirus and Me' survey will shape current and future decision-making.

With thanks,

PD

Professor Sally Holland  
Comisiynydd Plant Cymru  
Children's Commissioner for Wales

cc. Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

