

Message

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**From:** Sally Holland [sally.holland@childcomwales.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 21/04/2021 19:27:24  
**To:** [Name Redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk; [Name Redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk;  
[Name Redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk  
**Subject:** FW: Face Coverings - focus group - May 2021  
**Attachments:** CCFW Young people's advisory panel feedback on mask wearing in schools 19th April 2021.docx

FYI

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**From:** Sally Holland  
**Sent:** 21 April 2021 19:34  
**To:** 'Ruth.Conway@gov.wales' <Ruth.Conway@gov.wales>  
**Cc:** [Name Redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk; [NR]@gov.wales; [NR]@gov.wales  
**Subject:** RE: Face Coverings - focus group - May 2021

Ruth, thank you so much for this update. I'm pleased that you're going to consult with young people on this, although I note the timescale and would urge you to be in a position to change the regulations, if evidence allows it, as soon as possible.

We met with our youth advisory panel for their monthly meeting this week and asked for an update on how they're experiencing face coverings in school. I asked the question as neutrally as possible, in fact I said I'd be interested to know if it's got easier over time, but the experiences reported were still largely negative. I attach a brief document that shares their comments with you under a range of themes.

I urge you to consider these comments, if possible with the Minister and CMO's team, as you continue to weigh up the balance of risk and harms in this measure.

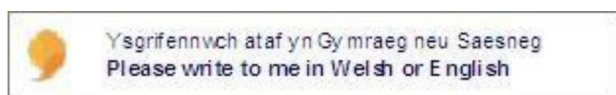
I would be keen to see more flexibility in the regulations as soon as possible, for example to allow face coverings to be worn on a voluntary basis in class by pupils or teachers, and for you also to consider the impact on young people sitting assessments and wearing face coverings over the next few weeks.

With best wishes

Sally

**Sally Holland**  
Children's Commissioner for Wales | Comisiynydd Plant Cymru

**T:** [Irrelevant & Sensitive]  
**W:** [www.childcomwales.org.uk](http://www.childcomwales.org.uk) | [www.complantcymru.org.uk](http://www.complantcymru.org.uk)  
**A:** Oystermouth House, Charter Court, Phoenix Way, Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9FS |  
Tŷ Ystumllwynarth, Ffordd Phoenix, Llansamlet, Abertawe SA7 9FS.  
**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/childcomwales](https://www.twitter.com/childcomwales) |



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From: [Ruth.Conway@gov.wales](mailto:Ruth.Conway@gov.wales) [mailto:[Ruth.Conway@gov.wales](mailto:Ruth.Conway@gov.wales)]

Sent: 21 April 2021 11:17

To: Sally Holland <[sally.holland@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:sally.holland@childcomwales.org.uk)>

Cc: [Name Redacted] <[\[Name Redacted\]@childcomwales.org.uk](mailto:[Name Redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk)> [NR] <[\[Name Redacted\]@gov.wales](mailto:[Name Redacted]@gov.wales)> [NR] <[\[Name Redacted\]@gov.wales](mailto:[Name Redacted]@gov.wales)>

Subject: Face Coverings - focus group - May 2021

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Hi Sally – given your continued interest in the policy regarding use of face coverings in the classroom we thought it would be helpful to update you with some work we are doing in this area. We continue to have discussions with health colleagues regarding the conditions that may allow us to change our current advice. Alongside these discussions we are also keen to hear the views of children and young people. You have shared some of these through previous correspondence with the Minister on this issue.

To help inform our thinking we have commissioned CiW to run some focus groups to gather children and young people's views on this issue. I have attached the brief that we have provided. The questions we've included in the table at the end of the brief may change as CiW have agreed to help phrase them in a way that will best prompt discussion with the children and young people.

CiW will work up a brief for the sessions they are facilitating using the information we've provided and are due to send that to us next week. The focus groups will take place over the w/c 10 May with a summary report back with us by 21 May.

If you do any further work with children and young people on this issue we would welcome sight of it to help inform how we take this forward.

Thanks

**Ruth Conway**

Adran Addysg a Sgiliau / Department for Education and Skills

Irrelevant & Sensitive

E-bost - E-mail: [Ruth.Conway@gov.wales](mailto:Ruth.Conway@gov.wales)

defnyddiwr iShare - iShare user



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