

21-DAY REVIEWS OF MEASURES TO MANAGE COVID-19 IN WALES

27 AUGUST REVIEW: SUMMARY EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Introduction

1. In the seventh review of lockdown restrictions on 20 August, Welsh Ministers continued to consider what easements could be prioritised to mitigate against the widespread harms caused by COVID-19 and to benefit Welsh citizens.
2. During the review, the Welsh Ministers decided from 28 August:
 - To include visits to residents of care homes (adults and children), hospices, or secure accommodation services for children, as a reasonable excuse for gathering indoors with someone outside of a person's household or extended household.
 - To remove restrictions on casinos, allowing them to reopen with appropriate mitigations (reasonable measures).

Legislative background

3. The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force on 26 March. These were replaced by The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 on 10 July. A consolidated version of the most recent Regulations can be found [here](#).
4. Regulation 3(2) requires Welsh Ministers to review the need for restrictions and requirements under the Regulations every 21 days. When restrictions are no longer proportionate, Welsh Ministers are committed to amending or withdrawing them.

Equality impact assessment of the measures

5. In considering the equality impacts of the proposals, Welsh Ministers have been clear any relaxation of the lockdown restrictions should not cause further harm. The measures outlined above are considered to have positive impacts on economic and social wellbeing.

Annex A	Equality impact assessment – allowing visits to care homes, hospices, or secure accommodation services for children,
----------------	--

Reopening of casinos

6. A full EIA has not been undertaken for these specific venues as the data in relation to them is limited. The Welsh Government has engaged with the casino operators who have highlighted this form of leisure as a source of entertainment, with benefits to some people's wellbeing. They have also highlighted economic benefits in terms of reducing dependency on the job retention scheme and returning 300 people across 4 centres of operation back into employment.