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This is what First Minister Mark Drakeford said about meeting family members in the park in Wales

He had said: 'You can't go above two, once you go above two in our definition it is a gathering and gatherings are not allowed'

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First Minister Mark Drakeford appears to have given a deeply controversial answer to a question when clarifying the rules on meeting family members living in separate households in parks.

Mr Drakeford said in a press conference on Monday afternoon that two people from two different households could meet in a park, if they adhere to social distancing guidelines.

In answer to our question, he said: "The rules in Wales are that two people can meet providing they observe social distancing."

But WalesOnline has now been told by the Welsh Government that the information Mr Drakeford gave is not their message.

The Welsh Government now says overarching advice in Wales is to stay at home. Members of the public need a reasonable excuse to go out under the lockdown rules.

Exercising, going to work if you can't work from home, shopping for necessities and going out for a medical need or to provide care/help a vulnerable person are all reasonable excuses, but pre-arranging to meet friends and family is not one of them.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "Our overarching advice is to stay at home. You need a reasonable excuse to go out, and arranging to meet friends and family is not reasonable excuse."

This is what Mark Drakeford said about meeting family members in parks earlier on Monday

Speaking to ITV Wales, he said: "I am not sure that I fully understand what is being proposed in England.

"It has been the case throughout coronavirus in Wales that if you as an individual are out taking exercise you can, at a social distance, have contact with one other person. We always said that two people are able to interact in that way and if you did as I did go on my bicycle to my allotment through one of the major fields in Cardiff then you see people doing that all the time."

We later asked for clarity, saying: "Just to clarify some confusion, if someone wants to meet a member of their family in a park as long as they maintain social distancing, can they and if they wanted to meet two people, can they?"

In reply, Mr Drakeford said: "The rules in Wales are that two people can meet providing they observe social distancing, so if one person from a household is going out and meeting another member of their family then under our rules that would be permitted."

Mr Drakeford had emphasised members of the public could not meet more than one person from another household at the same time.

He said: "You can't go above two, once you go above two, in our definition it is a gathering and gatherings are not allowed because the more people who meet, the greater chance there is that the virus will start to spread in Wales."

We're now told this is not the Welsh Government's advice and members of different households are not allowed to meet in parks.

It comes after "modest" changes to lockdown rules in Wales were announced on Friday - like unlimited exercise being permitted and garden centres reopening - while more restrictions were eased in England by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday evening.

Mr Johnson announced that under lockdown **rule changes in England**, people will be able to sit in their local park, drive to other destinations and play sports with members of the same household, while people who can't work from home are being "actively encouraged" to return to work. These rule changes have not been adopted in Wales.

When asked about the new changes announced by the UK Government, Mr Drakeford: "I am not sure that I fully understand what is being proposed in England.

"It has been the case throughout coronavirus in Wales that if you as an individual are out taking exercise you can, at a social distance, have contact with one other person. We always said that two people can interact in that way.

"If you did as I did over this weekend, go on my bicycle to my allotment through one of the major fields in Cardiff then you see people doing that all the time.

"I am not absolutely certain if I am sure whether what is being proposed in England is a real change or if it is simply restating what has been possible in Wales all along."