



Welsh
Conservatives

Ceidwadwyr
Cymreig



By email from: amanda@amandajenner.org.uk

Ken Skates MS
Minister for Transport and the Economy
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

17th February 2021

Dear Ken,

As we are sure you will appreciate, the hospitality sector has been under considerable pressure over the last year, with a shortened Summer season and limited Christmas festivities. Many businesses have not survived and many will be on the verge of closure.

Having had discussions with hospitality businesses across mid and west Wales, we urge that the Welsh Government takes the following three points into consideration. It is vital that you ensure our businesses are supported and give them the best chance to survive.

1. Before the Welsh Government changes the current set of restrictions, **meaningful engagement & consultation** is needed with the hospitality sector. Engagement needs to reflect the differences between types, sizes and rurality of many businesses across Wales.
2. Enforcement and regulation needs a complete change in tone to recognise that many businesses are struggling to survive. There have been examples of public 'naming and shaming by Councils'. Instead of being accusatory and heavy handed, **enforcement and regulation should be pro-active and offer advice from the outset**, recognising that hospitality businesses have significantly invested to become safe. Local Authorities need to be given the financial support in order to do this.
3. **The administration and allocation of financial business support still to be rolled out, needs to improve.** The Welsh Government needs to ensure consistency across Wales and give both Business Wales & Local Authorities sufficient resources to do this. Guidance for businesses, eligibility criteria and the evidence requirements all need to be reviewed so that they are clear. 'First come first served' support is not equitable; instead having an application window would be fair if support was then awarded based on a clear, fair and means based eligibility criteria. For discretionary grant funding, Local Authorities should be given more flexibility so they can make specific and individual needs based award payments.

We urge you to take on board these points. The Welsh Conservatives have previously called for a 'roadmap' for the tourism sector in order to help it prepare ahead of any changes to the lockdown restrictions. These points should be incorporated into a 'roadmap'.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Jenner

Senedd Candidate for Ceredigion and for Mid & West Wales Region

Havard Hughes, Senedd Candidate for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Russell George, Senedd Member for Montgomeryshire and Shadow Minister for Economy & Transport

Angela Burns, Senedd Member for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire

Paul Davies, Senedd Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire

Fay Jones, MP for Brecon and Radnorshire

Craig Williams, MP for Montgomeryshire

Stephen Crabb, MP for Preseli Pembrokeshire

James Evans, Senedd Candidate for Brecon and Radnorshire

Sam Kurtz, Senedd Candidate for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire

Charlie Evans, Senedd Candidate for Dwyfor Meirionnydd

Tomos Dafydd Davies, Senedd Candidate for Mid & West Wales Region

Lizzie Lesnianski, Senedd Candidate for Mid & West Wales Region

Aled Davies, Senedd Candidate for Mid & West Wales Region