



Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01418/21

Robin Fletcher
Aileen@Boarding.org.uk

5 March 2021

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter of 17 February about managed quarantine arrangements across the UK.

As with all aspects of our response to the pandemic, restrictions have always been based on scientific advice. Protecting people in Wales from the importation of new and emerging variants from other countries can only be achieved as part of a joint approach to international travel by the four administrations across the UK.

Our approach to managed quarantine for people who have been in 'red list' countries within the last 10 days is therefore in line with the approach in England, where most people with an end destination of Wales will arrive.

At present, our regulations prohibit direct entry into Wales of people who have been in a 'red list' country within the preceding 10 days. Those passengers need to enter the UK via one of the designated ports in England or Scotland.

That means any person travelling to Wales having been in a 'red list' country must first quarantine in a hotel in England or Scotland before continuing their journey to Wales. The specific requirements are set out in English and Scottish regulations respectively.

We are discussing with the UK Government when and where any managed facilities may be required in Wales.

Adopting the same approach to testing and to red-list countries enables consistent identification, testing and tracking of any new variants across the UK.

In regards to returning pupils and isolation, I understand and share your concerns surrounding the safeguarding of children within the managed quarantine environment.

My officials are currently in discussions with UK Government and devolved administration colleagues to ensure that all welfare and wellbeing options have been considered and appropriate action taken to resolve any gaps in current provision.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

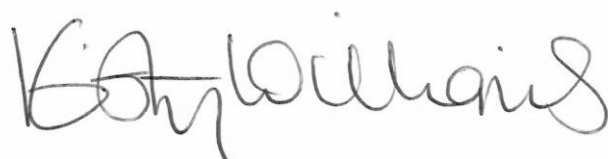
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The option of returning pupils quarantining at their school is under consideration as part of that discussion, although strict adherence to public health advice and guidance will be a major factor in any decisions taken. An agreed 4 nations approach would be prioritised to provide clarity and consistency.

We are due to consider this issue further in scheduled meetings over the coming week and any proposed changes will be shared with your members as soon as is possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your members for your support in these challenging times. By providing accommodation for both key worker and some of our most vulnerable citizens, your association has helped hundreds of people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education