

Participants:

Jason Thomas - Director	WG	Adrian Greason-Walker	WTA
Rob Holt	WG	Philippa George	SE Forum Chair
Claire Chappell	WG	Paula Ellis	SW Forum Chair
Lucy Von Weber	WG	Sean Taylor	UK TIC Rep
Tara Croxton	WG	Michael Bewick	North Forum Chair
Rhidian Morgan	WG	Andrew Campbell	WTA
Jo Starkey	WG	Dave Chapman	UK Hospitality C
Julie Osmond	WG	Anthony Rosser	UK Hospitality C
Ian Edwards	VB Board rep	Steve Hughson	MW Forum Chair

Version: Final

Main points of the Meeting

Main points from a short discussions on a proposal for tiered/level system nationwide for Wales.

- No change to the 4-nations approach for Christmas, urge public to do minimal as possible.
- New approach will be announced tomorrow in relation to levels which are under caveat;
 - o Level 1 - low risk - the closest to normality.
 - o Level 2 - medium risk - controls to maintain the infection rates, targeted with local restrictions. Broadly comparable to pre-FireBreak in November.
 - o Level 3 - high risk - the current strict set of regulations.
 - o Level 4 - very high risk - equivalent to a FB or lockdown.
- Cabinet will be discussing today if there is a need for level 0.
- Different elements that would influence the levels/tiers would be; confirmed cases per 100,000 over 7 days, percentage of people who have tested positive, confirmed cases under 25 & over 60, predictions of future cases, rate of change in confirmed cases, positive cases on local growth rate and taking the pressures off hospital capacity in ICU. The state of vaccination and the impact of the indicators above are all taken into consideration.
- Wales wide national rules for people to understand the restrictions coming in to place. If there is evidence of sustained variation between areas will allow complimentary targeted restrictions to target hot spots.
- Post-Christmas – looks as if we are going into tier 4 and inevitable further restrictions will be brought into place unless significant impact of reduced cases with change in peoples behaviours. Ministers will be saying more on this in the next 24hrs, inevitable will have to take further action to bring the rate down.
- Understand what the group have been saying over the last couple of weeks around a longer FB and Ministers have heard this.

Questions raised by group around the tiered/level approach:

- Concerns around the definite position of the 16th and 17th December?
- Has Cabinet taken into consideration changing the approach of the 23rd – 27th December as Wales is in a more serious position now and looking at the NYE period to influence under 25s.

Tourism Taskforce meeting 10:00 – 11:00, 10th December 2020

- Need a clear exit plan – understand that there is going to be further lockdowns after Christmas, what are the thoughts of how long this is going to be? 2 weeks didn't work what is the scenario planning – 1 month or 6 weeks?
- Communication from regions to why WG are aligning with Scotland rather than England? Surely would be better to work with England.
- Clarity around if local areas have a low incident rate e.g. Gwynedd and Conwy will they still go under level 4? Information on why Cabinet decided this?
- Disappointment with pan wales scenario.
- Discussions around the pandemic and why holding the line over Christmas, is it worth it? Members fully support the idea of giving Christmas up.
- Discussions around the travel restrictions with border control.
- Rural economy is reliable on the tourism industry and looking at regionalised and differential lockdown areas on the already fragile rural economy has to come into the mix?
- Importance of comms around wording - need to stick to tiers not levels. More parity the better.

Funding package questions:

- Continuity plan, likely to be shut until 8th January and forcibly shut from the 8th Jan onwards which would take us to February half term and the need for support.
- Furlough comes to an end in January and is then being reviewed. This needs to be fed into Westminster as Wales don't have enough financial power to get us through this tricky period. Really lobby UKG to extend Furlough past January in it's current form.
- Sector specific support for those who aren't able to operate e.g. events haven't had income for nearly 12 months.

AOB

- Encouraging to hear of marketing plans, TXGB need a Welsh business to join this opportunity and need VB to make this happen for Wales.
- Events and outdoors attractions discussion with the need for predictive analysis looking at the tiers long term.
- Planning around banks. Banks insist on financial plans to extend overdrafts etc. unless you have a plan not viable. As individual businesses, would be useful to have a directive from WG. Need something more structured to help businesses with their applications.
- Still have a large part of the community not abiding by the rules, have to enforce this and need to look at a plan of when we find the groups gathering with own alcohol. Is this down to the law/policing? It needs to be looked at.
- Cross-border communication as people from England are confused and this needs to be managed.
- How do we promote and sell Wales when we merge out of this pandemic?
- Possibly closed until the 9th January need to take into consideration the mental health toll this is taking on the industry.

Ffion Evans-Humphreys
18th December 2020.