



Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS
Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



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Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales,
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Janet.Finch-Saunders@Senedd.Cymru

Dear Commissioner,

The lockdown in Wales to prevent the spread of Covid-19 has affected people in different ways. Children and young people have not avoided the considerable impact on their daily lives and their welfare.

I am very concerned that the continued imposition of measures in Wales has caused and will continue to cause harm to large numbers of children and young people. The Welsh Government's announcement of a 5 mile rule for those wanting to see family and friends means that many children will not be able to see their grandparents because of this arbitrary decision.

Likewise, the failure of Welsh Ministers to reopen schools as in England will affect the educational attainment of our children, putting them at a distinct disadvantage. There will also be a large number of children for whom school acts as welfare check where teachers are sighted on their physical and mental health.

You have a duty to ensure that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are adhered to and that those rights are not discarded when Ministers make decisions on the continuation of lockdown measures. What assurances have you sought that the decisions of Welsh Ministers have complied with the Convention, and what evidence have you been provided?

Their welfare and wellbeing should be of paramount importance to you as their Commissioner. Your role is to defend, uphold and advance the rights of children in Wales and I am calling on you to confirm how you have been ensuring this during the past 10 weeks since the lockdown began, and what steps you will take to hold the Welsh Government to account to put the welfare of our children front and centre.

I'm afraid I have seen little of this and I would urge you to act.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS