



Petitions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 4887 Email petitionscommittee@parliament.uk
Website www.parliament.uk/petitions-committee

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office

9 July 2020

Dear Michael,

The Petitions Committee will be holding a session on the easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions at 2.30pm on Wednesday 15 July, in which Members of Parliament from across the House have been invited to participate. This is in place of a Westminster Hall debate, which has not been available for petitions debates since March.

The Committee has received many petitions on changes to the lockdown, including on allowing gyms and leisure centres to reopen, allowing beauty salons and tattoo parlours to resume business, delaying the full reopening of schools, and removing the compulsory quarantine period. Due to its coordinating role, we have invited a Cabinet Office Minister to attend the session and respond to the points raised by Members, but so far the Department has declined to send a Minister to discuss the Government's approach to lockdown and respond to the concerns of hundreds of thousands of petitioners who have raised this issue.

It is vital for the public's trust in Parliament and in politics that Ministers are available to explain their decisions. Therefore, in light of the fact that under normal circumstances we would be holding a debate in Westminster Hall and a minister would be required to attend, could you please reconsider your department's position and confirm by **12pm on Monday 13th July**, which Minister will be responding to this session.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House of Commons

Best wishes,

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee