



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



Mark Drakeford MS, First Minister,
By Email

4 June 2020

URGENT

Re: Housing Market

Dear First Minister, Mark,

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS,
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It is with the utmost seriousness that I write following a number of concerns having been raised with me about the impact of the lockdown on the housing market.

On 29 May 2020 you issued the following written statement: [Review of Lockdown Measures and The Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#). In this you advised that Wales will have to wait until 18 June 2020 for you to announce whether any change will be made so to help reopen more of the housing market. As you will be aware, the situation here at present is that moving house is allowed, but only where it cannot be postponed.

In contrast to your Welsh Government, the UK Government has amended Covid-19 regulations to make clear that people who wish to move home can do so, and issued guidance providing important public health information to ensure that moving home and key activities around this, such as viewing property, can happen safely.

Undoubtedly, moving home is not appropriate if the individual poses a direct risk of transmitting Covid-19, and I would think that people who have the virus or are self-isolating should not leave their home to move property or undertake property viewings either. However, alongside implementing such a condition, you could open up the housing market imminently.

An excellent reason to do so is that I am aware of a number of estate agents who have hundreds of people waiting for viewings. Indeed, due to the current restrictions they are struggling to support clients who want to progress with selling or buying a home. Undoubtedly, many in the sector are to be commended for the innovative approaches taken to try and help advance sales, such as by offering virtual valuations, but it is time that you did more to open up the market as in England. Indeed, this would provide a much needed boost to the economy, removal companies, valuers, and surveyors.

Another potential benefit to my request is that supporting the sector could have a positive impact on homelessness. Indeed, the National Residential Landlord Association has suggested that opening up the lettings market could do just this, and called for landlords/agents in Wales to be allowed to hold viewings, using UK Government guidance as a starting point.

Kind regards,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS



**Ceidwadwyr
Cymreig**

**Welsh
Conservatives**