

To whom it may concern,

My name is **XXXXXXX** and I am a resident in your constituency. I'm calling for your support in the upcoming Westminster Hall Debate on 23rd November on the petition to keep gyms and leisure centres open during any further restrictions.

The physical activity sector has a hugely important role in the physical and mental wellbeing of your constituents as well as being crucial to the country's recovery from Covid-19. These facilities are vital in supporting the nation's physical and mental wellbeing and any decision to close gyms will have a profound impact on some local fitness facilities many of whom are still recovering from the catastrophic events of the first lockdown. We cannot risk the permanent closure of this valuable service within our local communities.

Here's some of the facts that have been put to the Government:

- Gyms and leisure facilities have proven since reopening they are safe, with the hygiene, ventilation, and social distancing measures within facilities, drawn up in conjunction with the Government, have ensured this low prevalence rate. The Government has so far provided no evidence to justify the closure of these facilities.
- The true facts are Covid cases in gyms are very low. Industry data from a sample of over 5 million gym visits in October found only 2.88 Covid cases per 100,000 visits (week ending 11 October). In that week the UK population saw 150 cases per 100k.
- Gyms are Covid-secure. 2m social distancing, strict capacity limits, high quality fresh air ventilation, and very strong hygiene and cleaning regimes. 90%* of members are satisfied with the safety measures in place.
- 98%* of members believe it's important to their mental wellbeing. 80%* of members say that the gym is their only or main form of exercise. The Government has consistently stressed the importance of exercise throughout this pandemic, however during the winter months outdoor activity becomes less appealing and more dangerous, making it imperative there is a safe space to exercise.
- 96%* of gym members have said they support gyms staying open in the event of a further lockdown and over 600,000 people have already signed the petition to keep gyms open.
- Sport England's Active Lives Survey reported 3 million more inactive individuals in the first lockdown period compared to the same period in 2019. This number is likely to be even greater during the winter, with a devastating impact on health and wellbeing, if gyms are not able to reopen.

With the prospect of continued restrictions on a national and local level for the foreseeable future, it is vital the physical activity sector is recognised as safe and essential and is able to remain open.

I urge you to ensure your constituents' health and wellbeing are protected by attending Monday's debate.

Best wishes
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