



Response to the Prime Minister's announcement on the Covid-19 winter plan.

We welcome the Prime Minister's announcement that gyms, swimming pools, leisure centres and libraries will be able to reopen and restart once the current lockdown ends on the 2nd December.

This is an important recognition by the Government of the essential role that our culture, sport and leisure services play in supporting the health of communities and of the hard work of many organisations to ensure that the sector offers safe spaces to take part in physical activity.

There is no doubt that enabling safe reopening of these venues will help support the physical, mental and social wellbeing of many people, and will also play a role in addressing social isolation and loneliness, particularly in the winter months.

However, the restrictions around group exercise will impact on the already fragile public leisure landscape. Exercise classes and group exercise have been one of the most popular activities since reopening after the initial lockdown and the severe restrictions across all tiers will significantly impact both operators and customers alike.

Moreover, we are disappointed with the announcement regarding theatres, with no opening of theatres in tier 3 and capacity restrictions in tiers one and two, making it financially impossible for many theatres to consider reopening.