

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Ymgynghoriad ar effaith
argyfwng Covid-19
CCERA(5) CP 27
Ymateb gan Unigolyn

Welsh Parliament
Climate Change, Environment and
Rural Affairs Committee
Consultation on the impact of the
Covid-19 pandemic
CCERA(5) CP 27
Evidence from Individual

Submission from an individual from Powys

Those of us living close to the border are very concerned about the impact closing the border will have on our communities, immediately and longer lasting effects.

Our nearest shops, markets, banks, health centres etc are often in England. If we cannot get there without breaking the law and being fined we will be unable to get to essential services.

Many people in rural areas do not have cars or the internet. It may be possible to get to an English town but not a Welsh one.

In my area we have been fighting to keep our 1 bus per week to Oswestry for market day. For many people who don't have their own transport this is the only way to access fresh food and facilities. Our bus route will be lost for ever if people are breaking the law to use it.

Many would rather support local shops in our nearby towns, even if they are in England, than be forced to use internet shopping to make Amazon even richer.

Also, people over the border in England may shop in small Welsh towns.

The rural communities have lost banks, public transport, shops. We will now lose our pubs. We can't lose any more. Our young people will leave. People in my area are very concerned. We do not want to go to more distant and populated cities and towns, just support our nearest, local shops and facilities.

The Covid virus does not respect geographical or political boundaries.

I hope you will consider these points when making the decision about keeping the border open.