



Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP
james.sm@catholicunion.org.uk

Our Reference: 202100171588

Your Reference: Proposed route map for reopening places of worship in Scotland

28 April 2021

Dear Rt Hon Sir Edward Leigh MP,

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2021 to the First Minister regarding restrictions at places of worship. I work in the Connected Communities Division and have been asked to respond.

Firstly, I would like to offer my sincere apologies for this late response to your email. The imperatives of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic have created some challenges for us in providing timely answers to all of the much increased number of queries we have for understandable reasons received during this time. Places of worship in Scotland are now open, therefore I am sending information about the current situation.

You may also be aware that as of 26 April, we have moved towards greater easing of the health protection restrictions, with the removal of the 50 person limit in places of worship; instead the numbers of people who should attend will be subject to the building capacity and physical distancing and other measures including a risk assessment. The [guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this further easing of restrictions.

Information on the indicative timetable for the careful and gradual easing of restrictions has been set out in the [Strategic Framework](#). This is subject to regular review and the [latest changes](#) were published on 13 April. The [data](#) informing decisions in this regard is also published on the Scottish Government website.

As we gradually ease the Covid-19 restrictions, we continue to engage regularly with our faith and

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belief communities to understand their concerns, and to discuss the issues affecting the safe use of places of worship.

I hope that this is helpful and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing understanding, and for your part in ensuring compliance with COVID restrictions, which remains vital to ensuring we all stay safe, protect others and save lives.

Yours sincerely

Lara Cook
CC : Head of Connected Communities

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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