



Northumberland Federation of WIs

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28 April 2021

Good morning ladies.

Last week I received an e mail form an individual WI as they had been informed by the hall where they meet that meetings could resume from 17th May. In my mind I was sure that the hall was incorrect but being aware that other venues may think this I checked with National on rulings, exemptions etc and this is the definitive ruling on indoor meetings which will apply to all church halls, village halls and of course those WI's lucky enough to own and hire out their own properties.

The Government ruling states that from 17th May 2021 hospitality opens up and more venues are allowed to cater for groups of six indoors. There are some exceptions for larger gatherings but unfortunately NONE of these exemptions apply to WI Meetings. These meetings will have to be capped at six indoors and thirty outdoors.

The exemptions that are mentioned in the previous paragraph are as listed below:

- Support Groups (maximum 15 people)
- Supervised children's activities
- Parent and child groups (maximum 15 people but not including any aged five or under)
- Communal worship (more information on these meetings on Government website)
- Wedding receptions (maximum 15 people but not including any aged five or under)

I know this may be disappointing for some WI's but when you consider how long we have been in lockdown, then ten weeks tomorrow will be 1st July, past the last deadline on the Government Roadmap and with all due adherence to the guidelines we should all be meeting up with extended families, friends for coffee and all our WI members so come on ladies, one last bullet biting and we should be fine.

Keep smiling and start planning your next WI events.

Marj x

Federation Chairman

