



**ADRODDIAD GAN Y
PWYLLGOR DEDDFAU**

**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order 2006

This Order restricts the length of time local authorities can place homeless people in Bed and Breakfast accommodation and imposes a higher standard for all forms of temporary accommodation. The Order also requires local authorities to consider the health and social needs of vulnerable homeless people when deciding whether accommodation is suitable for their needs.

Standing Order 11.7

The following points have been identified for reporting under Standing Order 11.7.

Article 6 specifies exceptions to the requirement set out in article 5. In article 6(1)(a) reference is made to "a period, or a total of periods, which does not exceed 2 weeks". This implies that the 2 week need not necessarily be consecutive. The Welsh text translates "2 weeks" as "pythefnos" which means fortnight and thus implies that period of 2 weeks is to be consecutive. This discrepancy is carried through in article 6(1)(c) and the issue is repeated in article 9(1)(a) and (f). It has been established that the English text correctly conveys the intent of these provisions and so a more literal translation of "two weeks" is appropriate.[Standing Order 11.7(v) and (vi)]

Article 6(4)(a) specifies that occupation of Bed and Breakfast accommodation before 2 April 2007 may

be disregarded for the purposes of article 6(1). The date specified i.e. 2 April 2007 coincides with the coming into of force of Part 2 of the Order. If a similar approach is to apply to the disregard in article 9 (4)(a), then the date specified in article 9(4)(a) should be 7 April 2008. It has been confirmed on behalf of the drafting lawyer that the date should refer to 7 April 2008 [Standing Order 11.7(V)]

Paragraph 8(f) of the Schedule includes a reference to area health authorities. Welsh Health Authorities were abolished as of 1 April 2003 and replaced by Local Health Boards. It has been established that the reference to area heath authorities was intended to apply to health workers generally. And the provision should be amended to reflect this. [Standing Order 11.7(v)].

The above mentioned drafting errors may be corrected by Memorandum of Correction.

Observations

Formatting points and typographical errors suitable for correction on publication have been notified to the drafting lawyer.

David Melding AM

Chair, Legislation Committee

7 February 2006