



Elin Jones AM
Llywydd
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

29 April 2020

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Dear Elin,

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, as inserted by Sch.10 para 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, I am notifying you that this Statutory Instrument (SI) will come into force less than 21 days from the date of laying. The Explanatory Memorandum for these Regulations is attached for your information.

The Coronavirus Act 2020 was introduced to Parliament on 19 March and contained a number of miscellaneous provisions around elections as well as regulation making powers for Welsh Ministers and the power for the Llywydd to fix a later date for an election to a vacant constituency seat.

These Regulations postpone any by-elections due in the immediate future setting a new date for these by-elections to be held no later than 16 April 2021 and not before 1 February 2021.

These Regulations have been made and laid as soon as practicable after the Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent. As a result, they have come into force less than 21 days after they were made.

Not adhering to the 21 day convention allows the Regulations to come into force on 5 May 2020. This is necessary as The Coronavirus Act 2020 only indemnifies returning officers and others against breaching their official duty by dis-applying sections 39 and 63 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for the period 15 March to 24 April 2020. A long gap between the end of that indemnity cover and this order being put in place would leave Returning Officers vulnerable to prosecution. In view of the circumstances the reduced period is therefore thought necessary and justifiable in this case.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

An Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the Regulations, in Table Office.

A copy of this letter goes to Mick Antoniw AM, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd