

SL(5)572 – The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

Background and Purpose

The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (“the Amendment Regulations”) amend the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the April 2020 Regulations”) to make further temporary provision in relation to local authority meetings and for public and press access to these meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The April 2020 Regulations modified existing requirements in relation to local authority meetings (including meetings of fire and rescue authorities and National Park authorities) for a specified period to minimise risks to local authorities in the conduct of business and to ensure their members and officers can act in accordance with official health guidance. The April 2020 Regulations also sought to minimise the risk to the public and press by enabling or requiring a number of activities to be undertaken electronically rather than in person or through postal services.

These Amendment Regulations make further provision for these same purposes and make modifications which arise as a result of the April 2020 Regulations. The Amendment Regulations also amend regulation 9 of the April 2020 Regulations which concerns the flexibility for local authorities to hold certain meetings.

Procedure

Negative.

Technical Scrutiny

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

Merits Scrutiny

The following point is identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

1. Standing Order 21.3(ii) – that it is of political or legal importance or gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Senedd

The Explanatory Memorandum explains that, given the serious threat arising from coronavirus, there has been no public consultation in relation to the Amendment Regulations. The Welsh Government has, though, had advisory consultations with representatives from local government, bodies representing local government in Wales and other bodies.

The Explanatory Memorandum also explains that a regulatory impact assessment has not been prepared further to the Welsh Ministers’ regulatory impact assessment code and the urgency required to make the Amendment Regulations.

Implications arising from exiting the European Union

None.



Government Response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Legal Advisers

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

6 July 2020



Senedd Cymru

Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad

—

Welsh Parliament

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee