

# SL(5)580 – The Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020

## Background and Purpose

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The Regulations make temporary provision in relation to the administration of Local Access Forums ("LAFs") to ensure that they are able to continue to meet and take decisions during the period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

The measures employed to combat COVID-19 include social distancing, the avoidance of non-essential travel and the requirement to work from home where possible. The Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001 currently place requirements on LAFs to meet in person, to make meetings open to the public and to enable the public to inspect their annual reports in the offices of their respective governing authority. This runs counter to the measures in place for COVID-19.

The Regulations provide flexibility to enable LAFs to operate safely, effectively and lawfully by, for example, enabling meetings to be conducted on the basis of full or partial remote attendance and by making provision about the electronic publishing of certain documents.

## Procedure

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Negative resolution.

## Technical Scrutiny

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

## Merits Scrutiny

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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 or public policy likely to be of interest to the Assembly.**

No public consultation or regulatory impact assessment has been carried out in relation to these Regulations. The explanatory memorandum states that "given the serious and imminent threat arising from coronavirus and the need for an urgent public health response, there has been no public consultation in relation to these Regulations" and that "the Welsh Government has been in regular contact with local authorities and National Resources Wales." The explanatory memorandum says that the measures taken are temporary and no substantive policy changes will be created by the legislation.

## Implications arising from exiting the European Union

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No implications are identified.

## Government Response

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A Welsh Government response is not required.



**Legal Advisers**  
**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**  
**27 July 2020**



Senedd Cymru  
**Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad**  
—  
Welsh Parliament  
**Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee**