

Rev Ruth Coombs
Head of Wales
EHRC Wales | EHRC Cymru

9 July 2020

Dear Ruth

Scrutiny of Welsh Government regulations: equality impact assessments

I hope you are well. Thank you for your letter dated 3 July 2020 regarding the Welsh Government's compliance with the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, specifically in relation to subordinate legislation made in response to the Covid-19 public health emergency. We considered your letter at our meeting on 6 July 2020 as part of our formal scrutiny of The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulations 2020.

As you acknowledge, we have an important role in scrutinising how legislation laid before the Senedd has the potential to interfere with human rights. This is, of course, of particular relevance to the coronavirus-related regulations that have been made by Welsh Ministers which restrict the liberties of people in Wales.

As regards your specific reference to regulation 8 of The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, it requires the Welsh Ministers to make such arrangements as they consider appropriate to publish reports of equality impact assessments. This is a broad requirement placed on the Welsh Ministers and does not just apply to their regulation-making functions.



Nevertheless, I envisage that the Committee will raise the issue of equality impact assessments in its reports on any future subordinate legislation that has the potential to impact significantly on equality in Wales. As part of that reporting,



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the Committee will, where appropriate, require the Welsh Government to respond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mick Antoniw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

