

Explanatory Memorandum to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 10) Regulations 2021

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Welsh Government and is laid before Senedd Cymru in conjunction with the above subordinate legislation and in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

Minister's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 10) Regulations 2021.

Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social Services

27 August 2021

1. Description

These Regulations amend the [Health Protection \(Coronavirus, International Travel\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#) (“the International Travel Regulations”);

2. Matters of special interest to the Senedd

Coming into force

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, the Llywydd has been informed that the Regulations do not adhere to the 21 day convention. This is necessary owing to the risk posed in relation to coronavirus and in particular variant strains of the same, from passengers travelling to the UK. The changes made by these Regulations continue the four nation approach to international travel and ensure continuing alignment with England and the other nations. The law in Wales will apply to travellers regardless of their port of entry.

European Convention on Human Rights

The amendments contained in these Regulations do not change the engagement under the International Travel Regulations of individual rights under the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights; the Government considers that they are justified for the purpose of preventing the spreading of infectious diseases and/or the interference is permitted on the basis that it is in pursuit of a legitimate aim, namely of protecting public health, and are proportionate.

3. Legislative background

The Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (“the 1984 Act”), and regulations made under it, provide a legislative framework for health protection in England and Wales. These Regulations are made in reliance on the powers in sections 45B and 45P(2) of the 1984 Act. The Explanatory Memorandum to the [International Travel Regulations](#) provides further information on these powers.

4. Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

These Regulations amend the International Travel Regulations by making the following changes:

- **Montenegro and Thailand** are removed from the “amber list” and added to the “red list” of countries and territories
- **The Azores, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania and Switzerland** are removed from the “amber list” and added to the “green list” of countries and territories
- Permit unaccompanied minors travelling from red list countries to attend higher education to be excused from managed quarantine in England and instead isolate at accommodation in Wales
- Add the following events to the list of specified sporting events:

- **The Champions Hockey League competition**
- **FIH World Cup qualifiers for Men (European group)**

The International Travel Regulations already permit unaccompanied minors (under 18) who are arriving from a red list country to attend a boarding school or further education institution in Wales to isolate at their destination rather than in a Managed Quarantine Facility. This covers learners who are staying in school or college-owned accommodation and those who are staying with host families. This exemption is now extended to include any under-18 students from red list countries who are arriving to attend higher education. This will ensure that these students are treated equitably and is consistent with the approach being taken by the UK Government.

The Welsh Ministers consider that these amendments are proportionate to what they seek to achieve, which is to respond to a serious and imminent threat to public health.

5. Consultation

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.

6. Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

There has been no regulatory impact assessment in relation to these Regulations due to the need to put them in place urgently to deal with a serious and imminent threat to public health.