



Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

26 October 2021

Dear Huw,

I am writing to you in relation to the Representation of the People (Amendment) (Wales) (Coronavirus) (No. 2) Regulations 2021.

These Regulations amend the Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2001 to extend a rule introduced earlier this year which provides electors at a local government by-election who are unable to attend a polling station in person, as a result of complying with relevant legislation, Welsh Government advice or the advice of a registered medical practitioner in relation to coronavirus, an emergency proxy vote without medical attestation. This means that those people required to self-isolate the days before, or the day of the election, are still able to exercise their democratic rights while self-isolating.

As currently drafted, the rule will not apply on or after 5 November 2021, which is the last date on which a notice of a local government by-election may be given. However, the by-election itself may take place after this date and the current Regulations do not allow for the non-medically attested proxy vote to be available to anyone self-isolating after the 5 November.

Given the current rising number of Covid-19 cases it has become necessary for us to extend the rule to allow those self-isolating on and after the 5 November 2021 to take part in any scheduled local government by-election.

My officials have recently been made aware of three by-elections, scheduled for 11, 18 and 25 November. So that these provisions are in place for the first of those by-elections, I am asking you to consider the Regulations to an expedited timetable and report on them in time

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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.

for a plenary debate on 9 November 2021.

I would like to thank the Committee in advance for their assistance in providing for continued support for self-isolating voters wishing to exercise the democratic rights.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government