



Ein cyf/Our ref : MA/RE/0853/22

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

23 March 2022

Dear Huw,

I am writing to the Committee to provide you with an update on the legislation which has been made to underpin the electoral pilots which are being delivered in Wales as part of the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

As you will be aware on 9 November 22, the Counsel General and Minister for Constitution issued a written statement updating members on progress and confirming that four local authorities were working with the Welsh Government to develop electoral pilots in their areas. [Written Statement: Update on Flexible Voting Pilots \(9 November 2021\) | GOV.WALES](#). The purpose of the pilots is to see if we can make it easier for people to vote by offering flexibility on when and where they can vote. The pilots will bring the ballot box closer to people's day to day lives. They are a step in ensuring elections in Wales are as accessible as possible and that everyone who wants to vote can vote. The learning from the pilots will be used to inform longer term improvements to the way people vote and to help reduce the democratic deficit.

Pilots will operate in four areas:

Blaenau Gwent – the centrally-located Ebbw Vale Learning Zone will be used as an advance polling station for all residents of the county, including students of the college who are eligible to vote at the elections. Advance voting will be available on the Tuesday and Wednesday before election day.

Bridgend - polling stations in certain low turnout wards will be open for advance voting on the Tuesday and Wednesday before election day. A new advance polling station will also be created in a school on the Tuesday before election day for use by students registered at that school who are eligible to vote in specified wards.

Caerphilly – the council offices at Ystrad Mynach will be used as an advance polling station for all residents of the county on the weekend before election day.

Torfaen – the council offices at Pontypool will be used as an advance polling station for all residents of the county on the weekend before election day.

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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.

The four orders that have been made in order to deliver these pilots have been developed and made in accordance with section 10 of the Representation of the People Act 2000 (RPA 2000). They are no procedure orders so have not been laid before the Senedd. A formal consultation process in respect of the orders was also undertaken with the Electoral Commission as required by section 10(1A) of the RPA 2000. The Commission supports the making of the orders and the orders will come into force on 23 March 2022. They can be found here:

[The County Borough of Caerphilly \(Electoral Pilot Scheme\) Order 2022 | GOV.WALES](#)
[The County Borough of Bridgend \(Electoral Pilot Scheme\) Order 2022 | GOV.WALES](#)
[The County Borough of Torfaen \(Electoral Pilot Scheme\) Order 2022 | GOV.WALES](#)
[The County Borough of Blaenau Gwent \(Electoral Pilot Scheme\) Order 2022 | GOV.WALES](#)

The Counsel General and Minister for Constitution has also issued a written statement updating Senedd members on progress which can be found here:

[Written Statement: Update on Flexible Voting Pilots \(23 March 2022\) | GOV.WALES](#)

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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