

Government Response: The Local Government Officers (Political Restrictions) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2023 (“the 2023 Regulations”)

Technical Scrutiny point

We agree that the Schedule to the Local Government Officers (Political Restrictions) Regulations 1990 (“the 1990 Regulations”) has become difficult to navigate due to the amendments made by different Governments over time, including the insertion of paragraph 2C by the Secretary of State. Nevertheless, we consider that the practical effect of the amendment made by the 2023 Regulations will be clear to corporate joint committees (“CJCs”).

The new definition of “local authority” inserted by regulation 3 of these Regulations applies to regulation 3 of the 1990 Regulations and to paragraphs 2 and 2D of the Schedule. Paragraphs 2B and 2C of the Schedule do not apply to local authorities in Wales and the term in paragraph 1 is defined by reference to a definition in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 which does not include CJCs.

When the opportunity arises, the Welsh Ministers will aim to remake the 1990 Regulations so far as they apply to Wales to improve their accessibility.