



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

30 November 2023

Dear Huw,

I am writing to bring to the Committee's attention the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Wales) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2023 ("the Wales Regulations") which were laid in front of the Senedd on 30 November.

The regulations are being laid using the powers in the Professional Qualifications Act 2022 (The PQ Act).

The Committee was supportive of my opposition to the concurrent powers in the PQ Act and will recall the Senedd voted against consenting to the then Professional Qualifications Bill. You will be as disappointed as I am that despite the UK Government's repeated assurances that the powers would not be used in a way that undermines the devolution settlement, that is exactly what they have done.

The UK Government is using the concurrent powers in the PQ Act to make the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and the Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023 ("the UK Regulations"). The UK Regulations implement on a UK wide basis provisions relating to the recognition of professional qualifications contained in the free trade agreement between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the United Kingdom, and make provision in subject areas which are devolved to Wales.

The UK Government did consult with the Welsh Government prior to laying the UK Regulations, and in responding I made it clear that we did not agree with their intention to exercise these powers in Wales.

Therefore I am laying the Wales Regulations which amend the UK Regulations to provide that they do not apply to the Welsh regulators of specified regulated professions in respect of which the Senedd has legislative competence.

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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.

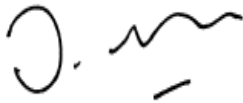
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Wales Regulations also impose the duties required under the free trade agreement on Welsh regulators and amend sectoral legislation in Wales to reflect the implementation of the free trade agreement and the revocation of the European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2015.

I am attaching a copy of the Explanatory Memorandum which gives more detail about the regulations.

I am copying this letter to Paul Davies MS, Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language