

Government Response: *The Prescribed Objects for Body Piercing (Special Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2024*

Merit Scrutiny point 1:

Work on implementing the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 ('the 2017 Act') started immediately after the passing of the Act in July 2017. Part 5 (intimate piercing) of the 2017 Act came into force in February 2018, making it an offence to intimately pierce, or arrange to intimately pierce, a child or young person under the age of 18 in Wales, if that piercing involves or uses jewellery. The 2017 Act allowed for the scope of the offence to be extended, by way of regulations made by the Welsh Ministers, to capture intimate piercings which involve or use 'objects'. With this as a priority, the Government undertook a consultation on its proposals to extend the scope of the protections, prepared guidance for practitioners and regulators as well as for young people, and undertook a publicity campaign to inform practitioners, clients and regulators of the new prohibitions. Regulations were subsequently made in July 2019.

In the autumn of 2019, the preparatory work for the formulation of proposals for the mandatory licensing scheme set out in Part 4 of and Schedule 3 to the 2017 Act commenced. Due to the Covid pandemic response however, work on the proposals was paused, resuming in the summer of 2022. Since then, public consultation on the principles for the proposed licensing scheme has been undertaken yielding a significant number of informative responses from a range of individuals, businesses and representative bodies across all the special procedures. These informed the drafting of five complex inter-related Regulations that were then consulted upon earlier this year.

Our approach has been to ensure there has been strong and effective engagement with stakeholders, including local authority officers, practitioners, businesses and industry stakeholders, about the scheme requirements. This has taken time but has ensured that the regulatory framework is understood and capable of effective implementation, providing the protections and safeguards intended by the 2017 Act.

Grateful to the Committee's Advisor for bringing the inconsistency in footnote 2 on page 3 of the Welsh text to our attention, this will be corrected on making.

Technical drafting corrections to be made prior to the making of the Regulations

CORRECTIONS MADE TO THE WELSH TEXT PRIOR TO MAKING	CORRECTIONS MADE TO THE ENGLISH TEXT PRIOR TO MAKING
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Rheoliadau Gwrthrychau Rhagnodedig ar gyfer Tyllu'r Corff (Triniaethau Arbennig) (Cymru) 2024	The Prescribed Objects for Body Piercing (Special Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2024
In the Welsh text only, in footnote 2 on page 3 the words “Gweler hefyd adran 40 o Ddeddf Deddfwriaeth (Cymru) 2019 (dccc 4) am ddarpariaeth ynghylch y weithdrefn sy’n gymwys i’r offeryn hwn.” will be removed.	