



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/CG/2213/25

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd
Senedd Cymru

25 Tachwedd 2025

Annwyl Elin,

WELSH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

One of the Government's objectives for improving the accessibility of Welsh legislation is to modernise the form and structure of that legislation. I was therefore very pleased that the Senedd agreed, with the enactment of the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025, that there should be a new legal concept of a 'Welsh statutory instrument'. This provides us with the opportunity to choose a new design, fit for current times, for those instruments.

The new design will differ from the dual column format that has been used for UK Statutory Instruments made by or on behalf of the Welsh Ministers (and previously the National Assembly) since 1999. Instead, Welsh statutory instruments will now be printed in a single document with both languages printed sequentially.

A bilingual front cover will precede the Welsh language text of the legislation, which will be printed in its entirety in full page format and will come first. The English language text of the legislation will follow after the Welsh language text, also printed in its entirety in full page format. Therefore, both languages will still be printed in the same document for users to access, and both languages will be as accessible as one another.

In addition to this, the serif typeface Times New Roman that is used on statutory instruments printed as part of the UK series, will not be used on Welsh statutory instruments. Instead, the sans serif typeface Helvetica will be used. This typeface is characterised by a linear, simple design, which means it is extremely legible.

Both the typeface and the format have been chosen following discussions with representatives of the King's Printer for Wales.

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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.

A Welsh language impact assessment has been completed by my officials to explore any potential impacts of this new design and will be published on gov.wales in the usual way.

We are also taking the opportunity to move to continuous numbering of footnotes in each language of Welsh statutory instruments (rather than the numbering restarting on each page). I believe this will simplify for the identification of the relevant footnote for users, when reviewing both language texts in the new design. The procedural and corrective headnotes for Welsh statutory instruments will reflect the new requirements set out in Part 2A of the 2019 Act.

It is important to note that the new design will not be applicable to the HTML version of Welsh statutory instruments accessed on legislation.gov.uk.

Generally speaking, it is now the HTML version that is accessed by the vast majority of users of legislation, not least because it is this version that will be most up to date. In consequence, it is vital that the Welsh and English text of the HTML versions is available in such a way as to enable reader of the legislation to consider both at the same time in a straightforward way. I will, therefore, be writing to the King's Printer for Wales to explain the importance of this issue and to urge him to make this improvement to the legislation.gov.uk website. You may wish to do the same.

Furthermore, Orders in Council, joint and composite instruments will continue to be made as UK statutory instruments. As a result, they will continue to be printed in their current form of single column format and a Times New Roman typeface.

Yn gywir,



Julie James AS/MS

Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Cyflawni
Counsel General and Minister for Delivery