

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change
and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS, Chair,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

16 March 2026

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the draft Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Regulations 2026.

I received a letter from Baroness Hayman of Ullock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Animal Welfare & Biosecurity on 2 February 2026, asking for consent to these Regulations. The Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. The Regulations will extend to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and a similar request for consent has been sent to Scottish and Northern Ireland Ministers.

The Regulations will establish a mandatory scheme requiring water using appliances such as washing machines, toilets and other specified appliances to display a label showing the product's water use and overall water efficiency rating relative to comparable products. This will better inform people about the water usage of these appliances when they purchase them and enable them to make informed decisions, similar to the current well established energy rating scheme.

Suppliers will be required to ensure the information on the label is accurate, that the product has been tested according to the relevant standards set out in the regulations, the label has been produced in one of the formats set out in the regulations and technical documentation is produced which is sufficient to enable the accuracy of the information contained in the label to be assessed. These requirements will be enforced by a unit set up and funded by the UK Government.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.

Dealers and retailers, whether selling on-line or in a store must ensure the label is clearly displayed on the product packaging or adjacent to the product so the buyer can see it. This will be enforced by local trading standards officers in accordance with established practice. The UK Government Office for Product Safety will enforce the compliance of online retailers.

Consumers will benefit from the labelling scheme, through lower water bills because they will be able to identify, compare and purchase the more efficient water using appliances. They will also have lower energy bills from lower hot water usage. Water companies, their customers and the environment will benefit from lower costs resulting from more efficient appliances using less water from the public network, the consequent reduction of discharges of wastewater requiring treatment and the reduced carbon emission reductions resulting from reduced water and wastewater treatment and storage. In the longer term it will encourage manufacturers to develop more efficient appliances to remain competitive.

The UK Government in accordance with its international obligations has notified the World Trade Organisation and the European Union of this scheme prior to laying these regulations.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made and amended in Wales, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for this instrument to apply to Wales as there is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter. The scheme is also modelled on and complements the existing energy efficiency scheme which operates on a UK-wide basis. I therefore do not consider legislating separately for Wales as being the most efficient, appropriate or practical way to give effect to the necessary changes nor the best use of Government resources.

The UK Government has committed to publishing a Welsh language version of these regulations.

The UK Government intends to lay these regulations on 6 May 2026, so it will not be possible for me to make a Written Statement and send you a letter of confirmation in line with normal practice.

I have written similarly to Llyr Gruffydd MS, the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee .

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs