



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE Draft Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations

DATE 18 March 2026

BY Jayne Bryant MS, Minister for Housing, Communities & Local Government

On 17 March 2026 I laid the draft [The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness \(Eligibility\) \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#).

The situation in the Middle East remains fast-moving and unpredictable. The UK Government has asked British Nationals in several countries to register their presence and may issue “leave now” advice if the position deteriorates further. Although no such advice has yet been issued, it is important that Wales is ready to respond swiftly if circumstances change.

The UK Government has a standing general crisis framework which disapplies the habitual residence test in defined circumstances when “leave now” advice or evacuation arrangements are activated. This ensures that those returning to the UK as a result of a crisis can access support without delay.

To ensure that people who arrive in Wales can access housing accommodation and assistance on the same basis as in the rest of the UK, I intend to amend the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014 now, before any advice is issued. This is a precautionary measure that will allow local authorities to respond consistently and provide clarity at a time when circumstances may change quickly.

Given the urgency and the uncertainty, I have decided to accelerate the Senedd procedure. This shortens the normal scrutiny timetable, which I regret, but I consider it necessary to ensure that Wales is prepared should the UK Government activate its crisis arrangements. To support scrutiny by future Senedd Members once the situation is clearer, the draft Regulations include a time-limited provision, (sunset clause) of one year which will allow future Senedd scrutiny of any wider, permanent Regulations, which would be developed in consultation with the sector, before they take effect.

The debate will be held on 24 March 2026 and subject to the will of the Senedd, the Regulations will come into force on 30 March 2026. I am grateful to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for considering these Regulations on an expedited basis.