

Government Response: The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 19) Regulations 2020

1. This is a Government response to the draft report of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee dated 22 October 2020.

Technical scrutiny point:

Error in reference in Welsh text

2. The draft Report notes that the Welsh text of regulation 2(4)(a) should refer to “is-baragraff (b)”. The Government agrees, but no action will be taken given that the Regulations were revoked at 6.00 p.m. on 23 October 2020.

Merits scrutiny points:

Point 4: details of arrangements to publish reports of equality impact assessments

3. No equality impact assessment was published in relation to the Regulations. This is because the travel restrictions imposed by the Regulations were an urgent response to the worsening picture of coronavirus incidence and transmission within Wales and the health advice recommending further measures to be taken at speed to control movement of people.
4. While no equality impact assessment was published on the decision to allow children to travel freely across the boundaries of local health protection areas for specified purposes, equality impacts were considered in the decision. The amendment made by the Regulations aims to enable children to participate in a range of activities aimed to bolster their physical and mental health and well-being. The equality considerations led to the amendment covering more than simply sports activities, recognising the health and wellbeing benefits of other activities and that not all children are able to participate in sports.
5. An impact assessment covering these areas has not been carried out subsequently as the Regulations were superseded by the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 3) (Wales) Regulations 2020 at 6.00 p.m. on 23 October. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of those Regulations which will be published on the Welsh Government website.