



Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

8 February 2022

Dear Chair,

I am writing in response to your letter of 21 January in relation to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's consideration of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No.5) (Wales) (Amendment) (No.23) Regulations 2021 (the Regulations).

Equality impacts are covered in the Summary Impact Assessments (SIA) relating to changes in the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (the principal Regulations).

As part of the consideration of any tightening of protective measures, achieved via amending the principal Regulations, an SIA is carried out. There will be a new SIA when new measures are being introduced; where measures have been previously used, we review and potentially update the existing SIA.

When we relax protective measures, a new or updated assessment would be published if the impacts are different to those which have previously been identified. If the impacts are expected to be the same, the previously published impact assessment remains valid.

Every effort is made to publish SIAs as soon as practically possible after the amending Regulations have been made. But I hope you understand that given the fast-moving nature of the pandemic at times, the short timescales involved in making the amending Regulations and the longer quality assurance process and the complex and substantial nature of the material contained in the SIA, there can often be a delay between the publication of the amending Regulations and the SIA.

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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.

Officials are currently reviewing the SIA process for changes made to the principal Regulations and will take into account comments from the committee.

This review has already identified three SIAs which, although completed, have not yet been published. These SIAs are now going through final quality assurance and translation with a view to publishing in the coming weeks. The three SIAs relate to:

- 3 June 2021 review (including the allowing six individuals from six households to mix indoors; up to 30 people outdoors; an extension to 'extended households' and opening of ice rinks)
- 15 July 2021 review (including the rule of six to meet indoors in private dwellings, indoor events; ice rinks; night clubs and adult entertainment centres; residential visits and gathering outdoors)
- August 2021 – alert level zero baseline measures

I hope this is a useful explanation of the approach we are taking to capturing and publishing the impacts of the important steps we have taken, often at short notice, to respond to the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD