

Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social Services

9 December 2022

Dear Eluned

The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) (No. 4) (Wales) Regulations 2022

We considered The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) (No. 4) (Wales) Regulations 2022 at our meeting on 5 December 2022.

You will know that our report contains two merits reporting points, the second of which noted that the Explanatory Memorandum to the Regulations has been laid in English only, and we asked the Welsh Government to provide an explanation.

In response we were told:

"Explanatory Memoranda for subordinate legislation are prioritised for publication in Welsh (in line with Standard 47 of the Welsh Language Standards). A Welsh language version is published if the subject matter of the Explanatory Memorandum suggests that one should be available in Welsh, or the anticipated audience will expect to see a Welsh language version. In this instance, the Welsh Government deemed that a Welsh Language version of the Explanatory Memorandum was unnecessary due to the narrow and specific nature of the Regulations and the small target audience (ie. Welsh Local Health Boards)."

While we have in our report acknowledged that Standing Order 15.4 requires all laid documents to be bilingual "so far as is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable", we would welcome further clarity as to why the Welsh Government considers the local health boards in Wales to be a "small target audience".

We would welcome a response by 3 January 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

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Chair

