

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

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/0166/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

13 May 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing to inform the Committee of my intention to consent to the UK Government making and laying the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2025 (“the 2025 Regulations”).

The 2025 Regulations intersect with devolved policy and will apply to Wales. They will be made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in exercise of powers conferred by section 50(1)(a) of, and Schedules 4 and 5 to the Environment Act 2021.

The 2025 Regulations will apply in relation to England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and are subject to the affirmative procedure. They are due to be laid before Parliament on 2 June 2025.

The 2025 Regulations

In 2024, Ministers across the UK collectively agreed to work on proposals to amend the current Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/3113) (“the 2013 Regulations”), which apply to the UK, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The 2013 Regulations require the producers of electrical and electronic equipment who place electronic equipment on the market to meet recovery and recycling targets. Producers of electronic equipment must help finance the collection, treatment, recovery, reuse, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal of waste electronic equipment. The 2025 Regulations are designed to fix two widely recognised deficiencies of the current regime by:

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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.

- Placing new obligations on online marketplaces so that they contribute to the cost of collection, treatment, re-use, and recycling of waste electronic equipment in line with those obligations that currently apply to companies defined as producers within the existing regulations. The new requirements will apply to online marketplaces only in respect of equipment placed on the UK market by their overseas based sellers.
- Creating a new category of equipment for vapes to ensure that the costs of collecting and treating these items are borne solely on those who place them on the market.

The Welsh Government's Position

The Welsh Government's general principle is that law relating to devolved matters should be made in Wales. The 2025 Regulations will be made by the UK Government on behalf of Welsh Government, Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive. Continuing with a unified UK-wide regime is advantageous for enforcement, compliance and will reduce the risk of potential confusion in the sector.

I consider legislating separately for Wales would be neither the most appropriate way to give effect to the necessary changes, nor a prudent use of Welsh Government resources given other important priorities.

It is anticipated that the 2025 Regulations will be laid before the UK Parliament pursuant to the affirmative procedure on 2 June 2025. It is expected that the 2025 Regulations will come into force on 11 August.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

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