

Jeremy Miles MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

22 October 2025

Dear Jeremy,

Regulations to fully implement Part 6 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 regarding health impact assessments

Thank you for your response to our report on the Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2025 ("the Regulations"), which we considered during our meeting on 13 October 2025.

In response to the single merits scrutiny reporting point in our report, which notes the lengthy period between the passing of the *Public Health (Wales) Act 2017* ("the Act") in July 2017 and the laying of the Regulations, you state:

"Preparatory work for the formulation of proposals for health impact assessments set out in Part 6 of the 2017 Act was commenced by officials almost immediately following the passing of the 2017 Act. However, staff were redeployed in 2017 to work on the Brexit response, and again in early 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Work resumed on the Regulations required by Part 6 of the 2017 Act during the financial year 2022-23 including a consultation exercise in early 2024. The consultation exercise and ongoing engagement with stakeholders yielded a significant number of informative responses which facilitated the further development of the Welsh Government's policy in this area and the drafting of regulations."

While we acknowledge that the Welsh Government consulted stakeholders as a way of further informing the policy in this area before legislating, we are disappointed by the justification for the delay that has been presented to the Committee. Setting aside the stated resourcing implications of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, it is still unclear why, having resumed work on the Regulations during the 2022-23 financial year, it took until 16 September 2025 for the Regulations to be laid before the Senedd.

You will remember that the Committee raised concerns in late 2024 about the delays in the Welsh Government bringing forward **Regulations** to implement Part 4 of (and Schedule 3 to) the same parent Act. It is disappointing that we again have to highlight the untimely implementation by the Welsh Government of legislation passed by the Senedd.

We would welcome any further information that you can share with us that might help better inform the debate on the Regulations in the Senedd.

I have copied this letter to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

