

Government Response: *The National Health Service (Welsh Language in Primary Care Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2019*

Technical Scrutiny point:

We note and accept the technical point regarding the absence of a reference in a footnote to the interpretation of “regulations” in section 206 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, in order to confirm that the enabling powers relied upon rest with the Welsh Ministers. We propose to rectify this by means of a correction slip.

Merit Scrutiny points:

The duties imposed by the regulations are the first duties relating to the Welsh language to apply to independent primary care providers. They are distinct from the Welsh Language Standards applicable to Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts, which were previously captured by the Welsh Language Scheme regime.

The Welsh Government have consulted and corresponded with the applicable representative bodies of the independent primary care providers to ensure that they are aware of the nature and extent of the duties incorporated into the terms of contract/agreement/service by the regulations, and that those duties will apply from the date of the regulations coming into force. Engagement and correspondence on the duties has also been undertaken with Local Health Boards. The Welsh Government is therefore satisfied that the relevant bodies are aware that the duties are not limited to new arrangements, entered into after the date on which the regulations will come into force.