

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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Counsel General and Minister for European Transition**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Mick Antoniw MS, Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1SN

12 October 2020

Dear Mick

Breaches of the 21 day rule, and other matters concerning Covid-related legislation

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2020, I am responding on the points you have raised on the clarity and accessibility of the law made by the Welsh Ministers relating to coronavirus.

We took the decision very early on during this pandemic to create the 'Coronavirus and the law' page to act as a single point for users to access copies of the subordinate legislation made by the Welsh Ministers. The feedback we have received from users, and legal commentators, has been supportive and we will continue to use the site to make this information available. It is not, however, intended to replace the services provided by the Queen's Printer for printing and publication of legislation, nor the additional service provided by The National Archives through the legislation.gov.uk site. That continues to provide access to authoritative text versions of primary legislation and statutory instruments in pdf format, as well as access to such legislation digitally.

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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.

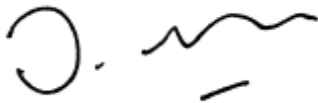
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The National Archives have made commitments to ensure statutory instruments made after 2018 are updated with subsequent amendments and changes as soon as possible after they are made, but as I have explained to the Committee previously there are technical, capacity and capability factors preventing them doing this for legislation made in the Welsh language at the present time. In due course, resources permitting, the Welsh Government will be providing support to their service to enable such legislation to be updated.

In the meantime we took the decision to prepare and maintain an “as amended” version of the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020, and the subsequent Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020, in both languages given the importance of the legislation to people in Wales, and the frequency with which such legislation was being amended. I am pleased to advise the Committee that legislation.gov.uk have prioritised keeping these instruments up to date on their site, as well as the changes being made to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) Regulations 2020. For this reason we took the decision not to commit further resource to preparing our own ‘as amended’ version of the International Travel Regulations.

However we agree with the points made by the Committee on accessing an ‘as amended’ version of those Regulations in the Welsh language. I am therefore pleased to confirm that we will prepare and publish such a document, in both languages, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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