

National Assembly for Wales

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee

CLA688 - The Welsh Language Standards (No.3) Regulations 2016

Procedure

Affirmative

Background

These Regulations specify standards in relation to the conduct of 27 bodies in the education sector.

Schedule 1 to the Regulations specifies service delivery standards.

Schedule 2 to the Regulations specifies policy making standards.

Schedule 3 to the Regulations specifies operational standards.

Schedule 4 to the Regulations specifies record keeping standards.

Schedule 5 to the Regulations specify standards which deal with supplementary matters

The 27 education sector bodies are:

- Career Choices Dewis Gyrfa Limited
- Further Education institutions (Coleg Ceredigion, Coleg Sir Gâr, Merthyr Tydfil College Limited, the governing body of Saint David’s Catholic College, WEA YMCA CC Cymru)
- Further Education corporations (Cardiff and Vale College, Coleg Cambria, Coleg y Cymoedd, Gower College Swansea, Coleg Gwent, Bridgend College, Pembrokeshire College, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, NPTC Group)
- Higher Education institutions (Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Cardiff University, Open University, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama Limited, Swansea University, the University of Wales, University of Wales: Trinity St David)
- Higher Education corporations (Cardiff Metropolitan University, Glyndŵr University, the University of South Wales)
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.



Technical Scrutiny

No points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.2 in respect of this instrument.

Merits Scrutiny

Following consideration in committee (see below), the statutory instrument, in accordance with Standing Order 21.3(ii), is considered to give rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Assembly.

Committee Consideration

On 6 March 2016, the Committee received written representations on these Regulations signed by representatives of Students' Union from Cardiff, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Swansea and Trinity St David's universities as well as NUS Wales. These written representations are available on the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee [website](#).

At its meeting on 7 March, the Committee noted the representations and agreed to report to the Assembly in line with the Merits point above.

Government Response

We note the content of the letter received by the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee from Students Union representatives of some Welsh Universities. The Welsh Language Standards (No. 3) Regulations 2016 were developed following the Welsh Language Commissioner's ("the Commissioner") second Standards Investigation, and detailed policy considerations centred around what kinds of services the bodies provide to students and the public. The standards provide a firm foundation for the Commissioner, following engagement with those bodies, to impose standards that are reasonable and proportionate on the bodies. The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure individuals have access to Welsh language services in our Colleges and Universities. These standards are stronger than Welsh Language Schemes. Every standard is explicit and makes it clear to the body what they are required to provide, and makes it clear to the public what they can expect to receive, so far as Welsh Language services are concerned.

Additionally the Commissioner has several enforcement options under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, which are far more robust than the enforcement process that was in place in relation to statutory Welsh Language Schemes.

(The Welsh Government's response was received after the Committee's consideration).

