

SL(6)033 – The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2021

Background and Purpose

These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 (“the Optical Regulations”) which provide for payments to be made by means of a voucher system in respect of costs incurred by certain categories of persons in connection with sight tests and the supply, replacement and repair of optical appliances.

Regulation 2 amends regulation 1(2) of the Optical Regulations so as to make reference to an increase in the NHS sight test fee of 1.9% from 1 April 2021.

Procedure

Made Negative.

The Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

Technical Scrutiny

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

Merits Scrutiny

The following points are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

1. Standing Order 21.3 (ii) - that it is of political or legal importance or gives rise to issues of public policy likely to be of interest to the Senedd

The provisions under regulation 2 of these Regulations will have effect retrospectively from 1 April 2021. This is expressly permitted under section 76(9) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006.

Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 13 September 2021 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

