

Ministerial Advice

To: Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

From: [hepgorwyd adran 40(2)], Welsh Language Unit, CP2

Date: 19 December 2017

Subject: LEGISLATION: Approval for Written Statement on Welsh language Standards for Health Sector Bodies.

MATS Reference number: MA(L)/EM/0878/17

When is a decision required from the Minister? 20 December 2017. The Written Statement should be published on Wednesday 20 December

1. What is the issue you are asking the Minister to consider?

To seek your approval for:

- The draft Written Ministerial Statement attached at doc 1 which provides an update to Assembly Members on preparing Welsh language standards for health sector bodies, and to publish the Statement on Wednesday 20 December.

2. What action(s) are you recommending to the Minister?

You are asked to:

- Approve the Written Ministerial Statement at doc 1;

3. Deputy Director, Statement of Assurance

I, [hepgorwyd adran 40(2)], confirm that I have quality assured this advice.

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful and affordable. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered, in line with delivery of the [government objectives](#) in [Prosperity for all: the national strategy](#).

Advice

4. Context - What is the situation that has led to this advice?

4.1 You have received advice from officials on the Welsh Language Standards Regulations that have been prepared for health sector bodies (MA-L/EM/0764/17) and have met with officials to discuss the Regulations.

4.2 You met with the Welsh Language Commissioner on 14 December where you confirmed your intention to lay the Regulations. You told the Commissioner that you would be laying the Regulations at the Assembly in January 2018. The Commissioner was content with this approach.

4.3 Since that meeting, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg have contacted officials to ask when the Regulations will be laid at the Assembly. Officials have not given a timeframe to Cymdeithas yr Iaith, and have referred them to the letter you sent to the Culture Welsh Language and Communications Committee which stated that you were considering the policy.

4.4 You have asked officials to prepare a Written Ministerial Statement to be published on Wednesday 20 December to confirm your intention of laying the Regulations in January. This will clarify the situation to stakeholders, and ensure that the bodies that will be subject to the Regulations are aware of the timetable.

4.5 Some **minor** changes have been made to the draft Regulations attached to MAL/EM/764/17 arising from final checks and equivalence checks. However, the Minister should be aware that any further changes to the Regulations could delay the laying of the Regulations and jeopardise the commitment to lay the Regulations in January 2018. Officials do not intend to make any further changes.

5. What is your advice to the Minister?

5.1 Officials advise that a concise statement is issued, which:

- confirms the intention to lay the Regulations in January,
- confirms the bodies which the will apply to, and
- confirms that the Regulations will add Social Care Wales to the No. 4 Regulations.

5.2 We advise that this Statement does not cover policy issues such as the proposed approach to Primary Care as the Ministerial Advice on this matter has not been formally cleared by the Cabinet Secretary. We advise that a Statement on the approach towards Primary Care is prepared to coincide with the laying of the Regulations.

6. What legal or policy obligations are relevant to this advice?

[hepgorwyd adran 42]

Programme for Government

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language – the implementation of

Welsh language standards contributes to this goal. It will increase the opportunity for people to access services in Welsh and to live their lives through the medium of Welsh thus protecting and promoting the language, the culture and heritage of Wales.

Equality and Human Rights

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared for the proposed Regulations. No one, in any part of Wales, should be denied opportunities to use the Welsh language, nor denied the opportunity to learn Welsh because of their race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, age or religion. Welsh language services should be available to, and accessed by, all communities.

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

A Children's Rights Impact Assessment has been prepared for these Regulations which will be published when the Regulations are laid.

Welsh Language Standards

The proposed Regulations have been subjected to the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Impact Assessment. The assessment identified clear benefits to the Welsh language, including increasing use of the Welsh language.

The Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been approved by internal Welsh Language Standards compliance officials. Clearance code: 16/06/01.

Promoting Economic Opportunity for All - Tackling Poverty Agenda

The proposed Regulations aim to improve to the experience of Welsh speakers when interacting with the health sector and to reduce inequality in health.

7. What are the financial implications of Ministers agreeing to this advice and which budget will this be paid through?

Cost: No cost

Budget: None

There are no cost implications to publishing this Written Statement.

Any associated administration costs can be met from within the EPS Delegated Running Cost budget. The EPS Operations Team is content this MA(L) complies with Interim Finance Notice 01/2015 EPS/EM/13/17.

8. What communication, engagement or media activity is planned following this decision?

If approved this Written Statement will be sent to the press after being issued to

Assembly Members.

Annex A: Copy Recipients [hepgorwyd adran 40(2)]