
From: (EPS - WLD)
Sent: 07 December 2017 17:25
To: Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning
Cc: [hepgorwyd adran 40(2)]

Subject: Draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment for Welsh Language Standards (No.7) Regulations

Following the meeting today to discuss Welsh Language Standards (No. 7) Regulations I attach a draft version of the Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment to accompany the Regulations.

There are concerns regarding the quality of the responses from the bodies and the information they have provided about costs of implementing the proposed standards. Similar concerns have been noted during the preparation of previous Regulations making Welsh language standards. Bodies are unable or unwilling to provide estimated additional costs as they do not know with which standards they will be required to comply. Some bodies have provided costs for complying with every single standard. The Commissioner is yet to impose every standard on any single body.

12 of the 18 organisations that will be subject to the No. 7 Regulations provided estimated costs of complying. Policy officials undertook a quality assurance exercise and bodies who had misunderstood the requirements of the RIA or included duplicated costs were given an opportunity to review their RIA estimates. This resulted in an overall reduction of approximately £500,000 from the total estimates cost impact. Where cost estimations were provided solely against standards that have now been removed from the draft Regulations they have been deducted from the overall costs provided by that body. All these changes have been fed into the preparation of the final RIA.

The Welsh Language Commissioner has confirmed that she will consult with the bodies before issuing final compliance notices and factors such as reasonableness and proportionality of individual standards will be discussed at this stage. As part of this process, bodies could present an assessment of the relative costs and benefits associated with the Standards.

I also attach a copy of *Mwy na Geiriau ... More than just words ...* the follow-on strategic framework for Welsh language services in Health, Social Services and Social Care



Explanatory
Memorandum d...



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