

SL(5)489 – The Education (Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Background and Purpose

These Regulations amend the following Regulations (“the Inspection Regulations”)—

- the Inspection of Education and Training (Wales) Regulations 2001,
- the Education (School Inspection) (Wales) Regulations 2006,
- the Inspection of the Careers and Related Services (Wales) Regulations 2006, and
- the Education (Inspection of Nursery Education) (Wales) Regulations 2015.

Currently the Inspection Regulations require Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales or Prif Arolygydd Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru to carry out an inspection at least once within the 7 year period beginning on 1 September 2016 and ending on 31 August 2023 (“the First Inspection Period”) and at least once within every subsequent 6 year inspection period.

These Regulations amend the First Inspection Period in each of the Inspection Regulations so that it will end on 31 August 2024 instead of 31 August 2023. All subsequent inspections will continue to be once in every 6 year inspection period.

Procedure

Negative.

Technical Scrutiny

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

Merits Scrutiny

One point is 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 Assembly

i. These Regulations extend the First Inspection Period by one year. It is stated in the Explanatory Memorandum that the purpose is to allow inspections to be partially suspended from September 2020 to August 2021 to allow schools time to focus on and embed the changes they need to make in line with the curriculum reforms.

ii. These Regulations allow inspections to be suspended in the settings prescribed for in the current Inspection Regulations. It is noted in the Explanatory Memorandum that it is anticipated that inspections will be partially suspended for maintained nurseries, schools and pupil referral units only, but there is



flexibility to suspend inspections in all nursery settings, careers and related services and further education settings. It is also explained that this will allow all settings to remain on the same inspection cycle during the current period and thereafter.

Implications arising from exiting the European Union

None.

Government Response

A government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 3 February 2020 and reports to the Assembly in line with the reporting point above.

