

SL(5)558 – The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020

Background and Purpose

The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Wales) Regulations 2010 ("the 2010 Regulations") require sellers of goods, who supply single use carrier bags for the purpose of allowing those goods to be carried away or delivered, to make a charge for each such bag supplied.

Single use carrier bags used for delivery or collection of goods are currently subject to a temporary exemption from the charge. The purpose of the temporary exemption is to mitigate, as far as possible, the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus), through delivery and collection systems, and to increase the efficiency of delivery systems, by the use of single use carrier bags to carry goods.

The current period of the temporary exemption ends on 8 July 2020. These Regulations amend the 2010 Regulations by extending the exemption period to 31 December 2020.

Procedure

Negative.

Technical Scrutiny

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

Merits Scrutiny

The following 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 Senedd

The Explanatory Memorandum provides that the Welsh Government has not been able to consult widely on these Regulations "*due to the timescale available to bring in these Regulations and the continued pressures on stakeholders*". However, the Committee notes that steps have been taken to contact bodies which represent Welsh retailers in order to ascertain their views on the extension of the exemption.

Implications arising from exiting the European Union

No implications are identified for reporting under Standing Order 21.3 in respect of this instrument.

Government Response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 29 June 2020 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

