

SL(5)581 – The Representation of the People (Electoral Register Publication Date) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020

Background and Purpose

These Regulations are to be made by the Welsh Ministers under sections 13(1)(a) and 201(1) and (3) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (the "1983 Act"). The Regulations set a revised date of 1 February 2021 for the end of the period during which revised versions of the electoral registers of local government electors for the county or county borough local government areas in Wales must be published in accordance with section 13(1)(a) of the 1983 Act. The current deadline is 1 December 2020.

The Explanatory Memorandum to the Regulations notes, at section 1 of Part 1, that the Regulations will provide Electoral Registration Officers with "*an additional two months if needed to complete the 2020 annual canvass and publish their revised electoral register to take account of the impact on local authorities of the Covid-19 pandemic*".

Procedure

Affirmative.

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 Senedd

We note that the revised publication deadline for the registers of local government electors is approximately three months prior to the next scheduled Senedd election (on 6 May 2021). In accordance with section 12(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 2006, a person must be registered in the relevant register of local government electors in order to be entitled to vote at Senedd elections.

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 3 August 2020 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

