

SL(5)605 – The Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 8) Regulations 2020

Background and Purpose

These Regulations amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus, International Travel) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the International Travel Regulations”). The International Travel Regulations impose requirements on persons entering Wales after having been abroad. They include a requirement for persons arriving in Wales to isolate for a period determined in accordance with the Regulations. The requirements imposed by the International Travel Regulations are subject to exceptions, and certain categories of person are exempt from having to comply.

Persons entering Wales after being in one or more of the countries and territories listed in Schedule 3 to the International Travel Regulations (“exempt countries and territories”) are not required to isolate. These Regulations amend the list of exempt countries and territories to remove the Greek islands of Mykanos, Zakynthos (Zante), Lesbos, Paros and Antiparos and Crete as well as Portugal (with the exception of the Azores and Madeira), French Polynesia and Gibraltar.

The Regulations also add a further event to the list of specified sporting events in Schedule 4 to the International Travel Regulations, which except certain individuals involved with those sporting events from the isolation requirements.

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

These Regulations came into force before they were laid before the Senedd. This also means that there is a breach of the 21-day rule (i.e. the rule that 21 days should pass between the date a negative procedure statutory instrument is laid before the Senedd and the date the



instrument comes into force). We note the explanation provided by Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, in a letter to the Llywydd dated 3 September 2020 that:

“Not adhering to the 21 day convention and bringing them into force before they were laid allows these Regulations to come into force at the earliest opportunity, and in view of the changing evidence on risk in relation to this disease this is considered necessary and justifiable in this case.”

Implications arising from exiting the European Union

None.

Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 21 September 2020 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.

