

Statutory Instruments with Clear Reports

7 June 2021

SL(6)007 – The Relaxation of School Reporting Requirements (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021

Procedure: Made Negative

These Regulations amend a number of existing regulations relating to school reporting requirements, in response to the impact on schools of coronavirus. These are:

- The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011 ("the Annual Report Regulations");
- The Head Teacher's Report to Parents and Adult Pupils (Wales) Regulations 2011 ("the Reporting Regulations");
- The School Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 ("the School Information Regulations"); and
- The School Performance Information (Wales) Regulations 2011 ("the School Performance Regulations").

The Welsh Government considers that schools, local authorities and governing bodies may be unable to comply with certain statutory reporting requirements, and that such requirements may also pose a disproportionate administrative burden on those responsible.

The Annual Report Regulations set out the information that must be published by a school governing body in an annual report. Therefore, regulation 2(2) of these Regulations inserts a new regulation into the Annual Report Regulations the effect of which is that the following information for the 2020-2021 school year is not required to be published in any governors' annual report—

- paragraph 6 of Schedule 2 to the Annual Report Regulations (the summary of secondary school performance),
- paragraph 7 of Schedule 2 to the Annual Report Regulations (the numbers of authorised and unauthorised pupil absences), and
- paragraph 8(b) of Schedule 2 to the Annual Report Regulations (further information relating to authorised and unauthorised pupils absences).

A consequential amendment is also made to the Annual Report Regulations in relation to the requirements of the short form of the annual report.

The Reporting Regulations make provision in respect of the report the head teacher of a maintained school is required to send to parents and adult pupils each school year and the additional information a parent may request from the head teacher. Not all children have



attended school throughout the year and many pupils and teachers have worked and studied remotely for extended periods of time. This presents challenges for teachers in respect of the full content that would ordinarily be included in the report to parents and adult pupils. Regulation 3 of these Regulations inserts a new provision into the Reporting Regulations the effect of which is to amend the obligations on the head teachers, in respect of the specified content of reports, so that they are obligated to use their reasonable endeavours to comply with those obligations.

The School Information Regulations prescribe the information that must be published by local authorities and schools in a school prospectus. The Welsh Government considers that the extended periods of home learning and working for many pupils and teachers will have had a negative impact on the quality of some of the data regulated by the School Information Regulations, particularly the data on pupil absences. As such, the Welsh Government considers that this should not be published in a school prospectus. Regulation 4 of these Regulations disapplies the obligation on a school governing body to include in any school prospectus the data set out in paragraph 30 of Schedule 3 to those Regulations (data relating to pupil absences) in respect of the 2020-2021 school year.

The School Performance Regulations regulate the transfer of information relating to the educational performance of pupils from head teachers to school governing bodies, local authorities and the Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Government considers that extended periods of home learning for many pupils, and home working for teachers, will have a negative impact on the quality of some of the data regulated by the School Performance Regulations. Many schools will not have completed the foundation phase and key stage assessments and the collection of this data by Welsh Ministers, via local authorities, will not take place for the 2020-2021 school year. Regulation 5 of these Regulations disapplies the obligations on a school to supply the prescribed information relating to the 2020-2021 school year to local authorities, and on local authorities to supply that information to the Welsh Ministers.

Parent Act: Education Act 1996, Education Act 1997, Education Act 2002

Date Made: 23 May 2021

Date Laid: 25 May 2021

Coming into force date: 18 June 2021

