

SL(6)490 – The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2024

Background and Purpose

These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989 (“the Principal Regulations”).

The Principal Regulations allow Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts (as applicable) in Wales to make and recover charges for relevant healthcare services that are provided to overseas visitors not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, unless the overseas visitor or the service they receive falls within a charging exemption.

These Regulations are being made to ensure that the Principal Regulations are aligned with UK Government policy regarding the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge and overseas students from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein and their dependents.

Procedure

Negative.

The Regulations were made by the Welsh Ministers before they were laid before the Senedd. The Senedd can annul the Regulations within 40 days (excluding any days when the Senedd is: (i) dissolved, or (ii) in recess for more than four days) of the date they were laid before the Senedd.

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.

We note there has been no formal consultation on these Regulations. In particular, we note the following paragraph in the Explanatory Memorandum:

“There is no statutory duty to consult prior to making the Regulations. It is considered that the proposed amendments do not require consultation as there is no discretion for the Welsh Government with regard to IHS policy and as the changes are regarded as



essential to align the Principle [sic] Regulations with UK policy.”

Welsh Government response

A Welsh Government response is not required.

Committee Consideration

The Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 17 June 2024 and reports to the Senedd in line with the reporting point above.



Senedd Cymru

Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad

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Welsh Parliament

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee