

Number: WG18406



Llywodraeth Cymru
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Consultation Document

The draft School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Date of issue: 15 April 2013

Action required: Responses by 24 May 2013

The draft School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Overview

These draft regulations make a number of changes to the School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011 as a consequence of section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") coming into force on 4 May 2013.

Section 94 of the Act enables parents to request up to three meetings in a school year with their school governing body, replacing the previous requirement for a governing body to hold an annual parents' meeting.

Under these consultation proposals school governing bodies would be required to include certain information relating to its duty to hold a parents' meeting under section 94 of the Act, in its annual report to parents. The draft regulations specify the information the annual report must contain in this regard.

How to respond

Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed/posted to the address below to arrive by **24 May 2013** at the latest.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.

The consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations

The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011 can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1939/made

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/section/94/enacted

Contact details

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Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

1. Introduction

1.1 The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011 (“the Principal Regulations”) set out the information to be contained in governors' reports under section 30 of the Education Act 2002. This includes requirements in respect of the language in which reports must be produced, and requirements for providing parents with copies of such reports and making them available for inspection at the school.

1.2 The proposed School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (“the 2013 Regulations”) are attached as an Annex to this consultation document and make a number of changes to the Principal Regulations. This is as a consequence of section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ('the Act') coming into force on 4 May 2013. These changes relate to the information to be contained in the reports and requirements for providing parents with copies.

1.3 Section 94 of the Act enables parents to request up to 3 meetings in a school year with their school governing body. This replaces the previous requirement for a governing body to hold an annual parents' meeting.

1.4 The new arrangements mean that instead of a governing body having to hold an annual parents' meeting, parents have a right to request a meeting on issues which concern them. This parental right may be exercised up to 3 times a school year, provided that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues which relate to the school, not individual pupil progress and achievement or grievances against a member of staff or the governing body.

1.5 Under these consultation proposals a school governing body would be required to include certain information relating to its duty to hold a parents meeting in section 94 of the Act in its annual report to parents.

2. Overview of the proposed amendments to the 2011 regulations

2.1 Regulation 2 (paragraphs 2, 3(a), 3(b) and 4) of the proposed 2013 Regulations remove references to the duty to hold an annual parents' meeting in the Principal Regulations.

2.2 Regulation 2 (paragraph 3c) of the 2013 Regulations adds to the list of exceptions in regulation 5 of the Principal Regulations of when a free copy of the governors' report must be provided to parents of registered pupils. This will now include where the governing body has provided copies to parents of the required information relating to its duty to hold meetings under section 94 of the Act and informed parents of their right to be provided with a copy of the full report on written request. Details of the required information are discussed below.

2.3 Regulation 2 (paragraphs 5 and 6) amend the Principal Regulations to require a governing body to include certain information in its annual report relating to its duty to hold a parents' meeting under section 94. This includes the date and venue of the

meeting, the reasons given by parents for petitioning the meeting, the names of persons attending the meeting other than in their capacity as a parent (including school governors, school staff and local authority staff) and numbers of parents attending. A brief description of matters discussed, any action the governing body resolved to undertake and the result of the action taken, if any, by the governing body as a consequence of those matters is also to be included.

2.4 Regulation 2 (paragraph 6) provides that where a meeting has been petitioned by parents but not held the report must contain a statement to that effect and include details of the reason parents gave for petitioning the meeting and why it wasn't held. The report must also state if no meetings have been held during the school year under section 94.

3. Consultation questions

In relation to the draft 2013 Regulations the Welsh Government would welcome your views on the following questions. Please use the template provided in this consultation to record your answers.