

Number: WG19253



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## Consultation – summary of responses

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

Date of issue: July 2013

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

<b>Audience</b>	School governors, headteachers, teachers, school managers, parents, local authority and teaching union representatives and any other body or individual with an interest in school governance.
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Action required</b>	None – for information only.
<b>Further information</b>	<p>Enquiries about this document should be directed to:</p> <p>School Governance Branch Schools Management and Effectiveness Division Department for Education and Skills Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p> <p>Tel: 029 2082 6051 Fax: 029 2080 1044 e-mail: SMED2@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>
<b>Additional copies</b>	This document can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at <a href="http://www.wales.gov.uk/consultations">www.wales.gov.uk/consultations</a>
<b>Related documents</b>	<p>The School Governors' Annual Reports (Wales) Regulations 2011 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1939/made">www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/1939/made</a></p> <p>The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/section/94/enacted">www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/section/94/enacted</a></p>

## **Introduction**

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

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.

## Summary of responses

1. There were 19 responses to the consultation. The responders can be categorised as follows:

Local Authorities/Consortia	5
Unions	5
Schools	7
Other including Representative bodies	2

2. 16 responders (84%) either agreed or strongly agreed that the governing body should record certain information relating to its duty to hold a parents' meeting under section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 in its annual report.
3. 17 responders (89%) agreed or strongly agreed with the type of information to be recorded in the annual reports concerning parents' meetings.
4. 18 responders (95%) agreed or strongly agreed that where a meeting had been petitioned by parents but had not taken place, a brief statement should be included in the annual report to explain why.
5. 17 responders (89%) agreed or strongly agreed that the annual report should include a brief statement noting that a parents' meeting had not been petitioned that school year.
6. There have been some instances where responders appear not to have fully appreciated that the purpose of the Regulations is to amend the information which must be contained in a school's annual report, in order to reflect the provisions of section 94 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. For example, a couple of responders expected clarification of certain aspects of the petitioning process provided by section 94 of the Act in the Regulations, when such clarification has already been provided in the statutory guidance to governing bodies regarding their duty to hold meetings with parents which came into force on 4 May.
7. Whilst responders overall were positive to changes to the parents' meetings process, some responders raised concerns about the potential bureaucratic burden being placed on governing bodies. For example, one respondent commented that the information required was too detailed.
8. Some responders made suggestions that fall outside the scope of these Regulations. For example, a responder requested that the regulations provide specifically that "inappropriate" issues such as staff/pupil disciplinary matters cannot be discussed at meetings which have been called using section 94, or mentioned in the annual report. The 2013 Act already provides that only matters which relate to the "school" may be covered in section 94 meetings, and the statutory guidance provides further clarification to governing bodies in relation to this by making clear that staff/ pupil disciplinary matters cannot be covered.