

Easy Read



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

A report about what people said



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of ‘**Summary of Responses and the Government Response for the consultation on Carbon Monoxide Alarms**’.

April 2024

How to use this document



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Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 20**.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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About this report



In November 2022, we asked people about **carbon monoxide** alarms.



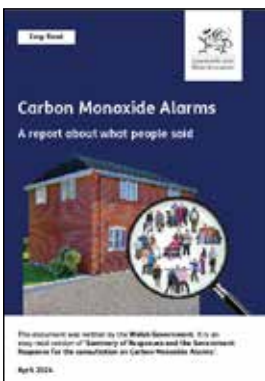
Carbon monoxide is a gas that is produced when fuel like gas, oil and coal are burned. It can be dangerous when not managed.



We burn fuel like gas, oil, and coal when we are cooking or using fireplaces at home.



[You can read more about this consultation here.](#)



This report is about the main things people said in that consultation.

What people said

Question 1

We asked if people agreed that the law should say all homes must have a carbon monoxide alarm if they put in appliances that use:

- any oil
- any gas
- or any solid fuel like wood



Most people said yes.



Most people can see this will keep people safer.



Some people thought any changes should match up to other laws.



Some people were worried what would happen if they did not follow the law.



In response we say that the new rules would only apply when doing building work. For example installing a new boiler.

Other spaces



We asked if **carbon monoxide alarms** should be in spaces like garages or attics.



Sometimes there are boilers in places like these. But people may not spend time in them.

Question 2

We asked if spaces like these should also be covered by this law.



There were mixed views on this.



An equal number of people said yes and no.



The rest were unsure or did not answer.



Some people said **carbon monoxide** could leak into the main house from these areas.



Some people said these spaces might be turned into other rooms. For example, a bedroom. So they should have **carbon monoxide alarms**.



We think we should change the guidance. It should say you need an alarm in any space connected to a property.

Bedrooms and living rooms



Sometimes an appliance may be in 1 room, but a **flue** could run through a bedroom or living room.



A **flue** is a pipe from the appliance or a chimney.

Question 3

We asked if bedrooms and living rooms that have flues in them should be covered by this law.



About half of people said no.



The rest said yes, were unsure, or did not answer the question.



Some of the people who agreed said that a **flue** could leak.



A few people said a **carbon monoxide** alarm should be placed in rooms used a lot.



We think that bedrooms and living rooms with flues should have **carbon monoxide** alarms. This is because people spend a lot of time in these rooms.

Cookers



We think that only cookers with **flues** should be covered by this law. This is because cookers are not usually covered in laws about buildings.

Question 4

We asked if people agreed with this.



Most people said yes.



Some people said it would help keep people safe for a low cost.



We will go ahead with this.



Carbon monoxide alarms will need to be used more, where there is higher risk to health.

Other things to think about

Alarms

At the moment **carbon monoxide** alarms are meant to:



- Follow standards by the British Standard Institute.



- Have a battery that lasts for the life of the alarm.



- Or be powered by the mains electricity with fixed wires.



We wanted to know whether people thought these rules should stay the same or be changed.

Question 5

We asked if the type of carbon monoxide alarm used needs to change.



About 6 in every 10 people said yes.



There were mixed views about the types of alarms used.



Some people thought the law should stay as it is.



Some people talked about alarms with batteries being cheaper.



We have decided it should be a choice which type of alarm to have.

Costs



We have thought about the cost for all homes to have a **carbon monoxide** alarm. It is a lot of money.



But it would be worth the cost. We would save more than we spend in the long term.

Question 6

We asked people to tell us what they think about the costs and benefits of having carbon monoxide alarms.



About 1 in 3 people agreed with the costs.



About 1 in 3 were unsure.



A lot of people said alarms with batteries were cheaper.



Some people said they would like to know how many people in Wales died because of **carbon monoxide**. And how many people had been injured.



We think the costs are important to make sure people are safe.



We think alarms with batteries are a good option as they are cheaper.

Question 7

We asked if there was anything else people would like to say.



Someone said people should be taught more about the dangers of **carbon monoxide**.



Someone thought the alarms should not be made law in private homes.



Any changes made would **only** be to new homes being built. **And** where changes are made to appliances in existing homes.

Question 8

We asked if these plans could have any good or bad effect on the Welsh language?

And how could we make sure Welsh is treated fairly to English.



Most people thought there would be no bad effects on Welsh.



Someone said information should be available in different languages and Easy Read.

Question 9

We asked how the plans could be changed to make sure there are more chances to use the Welsh language.



People said all guides should be available in Welsh.



Someone said information should also be available in other languages.



Welsh Government follow some rules called the Welsh Language Standards. This helps make sure Welsh is treated fairly to English.

What happens next



The new rules and guidance will be published in 2024.

Hard words

Carbon monoxide

This is a gas that is produced when fuel like gas, oil and coal are burned. It can be dangerous when not managed.