

11 January 2024

Dear

ATISN 20017 – Medical Examiners (Wales) Regulations

Thank you for your email which was received on 17 December 2023 and has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). You referred to the draft Medical Examiners (Wales) regulations 2024 and have requested the following:

- *To provide a copy of, or hyperlink to the **Regulatory Impact Assessment [RIA]** undertaken to support and justify the new regulations.*

Our Response

The Welsh Government has not yet completed its final Regulatory Impact Assessment in relation to the regulations currently published. It is intended that final versions of any necessary impact assessments will be published in the Spring when the regulations are made and laid.

This programme of work is led by the UK Government with some regulation making powers conferred to Welsh Ministers for Wales.

The attached impact assessment was published by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in 2018 as part of their response to their consultation on death certification reforms in 2016.

[Introduction of medical examiners and death certification reform in England: impact assessment \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

As a supplement to the DHSC Impact Assessment, Welsh Government also published their estimated costs alongside the response to their related consultation held in 2017. These estimated costs were developed to the same methodology as the impact assessment for England.

[estimated-medical-examiner-costs-for-wales.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

An update to these impact assessments was provided as part of additional measures introduced via the Health and Care Act 2022. Changes were thereby made to the Coroner and Justice Act, the legislative basis for the Medical Examiner regulations. The section relating to Medical Examiners and the legislative changes made can be found at Pages 26 – 29. While some figures were revised to meet the costs current in 2022, it was considered that the previous assessment of the costs and benefits of the medical examiner system published in the 2018 remained sufficiently accurate for the purposes of estimating the costs and benefits of establishing a statutory scheme.

[health-and-care-act-2022-summary-and-additional-measures-impact-assessment.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,