

Representation of the People (Electoral Registration without Applications) (Electoral Reform) (Wales) Regulations 2026

Approach to scrutiny

July 2026

Background

1. The **regulations** were laid on 23 June 2026 and provide for all local authorities in Wales to conduct electoral registration without application, to take effect in relation to local government elections beginning with the 2027 local authority elections. The regulations are subject to a specific procedure set out in **section 19 of the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024**, which provides the Senedd with an opportunity to undertake additional scrutiny of regulations making permanent electoral reforms following a pilot.

2. The regulations were **referred** to us by the Business Committee for scrutiny with a reporting deadline of 25 September 2026. Under the procedure specified in section 19 of the Act, a committee charged with scrutiny of electoral reform regulations can recommend that an extended 60-day scrutiny procedure should apply.



Our view

3. We considered our approach to scrutiny of the regulations at our meeting on 16 July 2026 and agreed that the extended 60-day scrutiny procedure should be applied.

Recommendation 1. The extended 60-day scrutiny period specified in section 19 of the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024 for relevant electoral reform regulations should be applied to the Representation of the People (Electoral Registration without Applications) (Electoral Reform) (Wales) Regulations 2026.