

Explanatory Memorandum to the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2025

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Council Tax Policy and Reform Division of the Welsh Government and is laid before Senedd Cymru in conjunction with the above subordinate legislation and in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

Cabinet Secretary's Declaration

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2025. I am satisfied that the benefits justify the likely costs.

Mark Drakeford MS
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language
22 October 2025

PART 1 – EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Description

- 1.1 The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2025 ('the 2025 Regulations') amend the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 ('the 1992 Regulations'). The 1992 Regulations make the detailed provisions about the billing, collection and enforcement of council tax.
- 1.2 The 2025 Regulations amend regulations 23, 24, 27, 33 and 34 of the 1992 Regulations to ensure that a reminder notice and a final notice is always issued when a council tax instalment is missed before a billing authority can take enforcement action. The 2025 Regulations prescribe, the circumstances in which a final notice must be served, the point at which the taxpayer(s) becomes liable to pay the annual balance and when a billing authority can apply for a liability order.

2. Matters of special interest to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

- 2.1 None.

3. Legislative background

- 3.1 The 1992 Regulations are made under Schedule 2 and Schedule 4 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act").
- 3.2 Paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 2 to the 1992 Act provides a broad power to make regulations in relation to the collection of amounts a person is liable to pay in respect of council tax and other aspects of administration.
- 3.3 Paragraph 2(4)(e) of Schedule 2 to the 1992 Act provides a power to prescribe the form of a notice served by a billing authority.
- 3.4 Paragraph 2(5)(a) of Schedule 2 allows regulations to provide that the unpaid balance of the chargeable amount is payable on the day after the end of a prescribed period.
- 3.5 Paragraph 3(1) and (2) of Schedule 2 to the 1992 Act enable a provision to be made as to the collection of amounts persons are jointly and severally liable to pay in respect of council tax and may be equivalent to that included under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the 1992 Act.
- 3.6 Paragraph 4(2) provides that before making any calculation of the chargeable amount for the purposes of regulations under Schedule 2 to the 1992 Act, the authority shall take reasonable steps to ascertain whether that amount is

subject to any discount or increase, and if so, the amount of that discount or increase.

- 3.7 Paragraph 1(1)(a) of Schedule 4 to the 1992 Act allows regulations to be made in relation to recovering unpaid sums due to a billing authority under provisions made in regulations made under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the 1992 Act.
- 3.8 Paragraphs 3(1)(a) and (4)(a) of Schedule 4 to the 1992 Act allows these regulations to permit a billing authority to apply to a magistrates' court for a liability order and to prescribe the steps to be taken before an application may be made.
- 3.9 All of the relevant Secretary of State powers have been transferred to the Welsh Ministers.
- 3.10 The Regulations are subject to the negative procedure (section 113(3) of the 1992 Act).
- 3.11 The 1992 Act does not expressly provide for guidance to be issued in relation to the collection of council tax and as such statutory guidance cannot be issued. Non-statutory guidance could, however, be issued under section 60 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 ("GOWA 2006").

4. Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

- 4.1 Council tax arrears are a common debt issue for households in Wales, often alongside other debts, leading to serious financial problems. Falling behind on council tax can result in a court summons, liability order, or visits from enforcement agents. Research shows that the council tax collection framework can make it hard for households to escape debt because it escalates to a larger amount relatively quickly, often prolonging the problem. The impact of debt on individuals and families can be negative and long-lasting.
- 4.2 The 2025 Regulations are intended to create a fairer, transparent and more effective enforcement process for unpaid council tax.
- 4.3 They amend the 1992 Regulations to provide billing authorities with additional time to engage with the taxpayer, understand their circumstances, and offer support before proceeding with enforcement action. An extended timeframe will also enable the taxpayer to recover from challenging events or circumstances that may have contributed to their financial struggles, providing them with a chance to stabilise their situation, receive further salary or benefit payments to cover costs, access financial support services and access professional debt advice.
- 4.4 Regulation 3 of the 2025 Regulations amend regulation 23 of the 1992 Regulations which prescribes the process for a billing authority to follow when council tax instalments are not paid.

- 4.5 Regulation 3(b) amends regulation 23(1) of the 1992 Regulations to prescribe that billing authorities in Wales may issue a reminder when a council tax instalment is missed. The reminder notice can include future instalments that are due within seven days from the date the notice is issued. This amendment preserves existing flexibility, allowing billing authorities to determine the most appropriate timing for issuing reminders based on local administrative needs.
- 4.6 Regulations 3(c), (d) and (e) disapply paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of regulation 23 of the 1992 Regulations in relation to Wales. This will remove the prescribed period for a payment to be made before the unpaid balance becomes payable and ensure a reminder notice is issued for all council tax instalments that have not been paid in a financial year.
- 4.7 Regulation 3(f) inserts a requirement for a reminder notice in relation to Wales to provide details of the amount that is overdue and any amounts that will become due within seven days on the day of its issue. Billing authorities can include any other information they consider necessary.
- 4.8 Regulation 6 amends regulation 33 of the 1992 Regulations which provides the preliminary steps that must be taken before a billing authority can apply for to a magistrates' court for a liability order.
- 4.9 Regulation 6(d) inserts a requirement that a final notice in relation to Wales cannot be issued less than 14 days after the most recent reminder has been issued **and** not less than 41 days since an instalment has been missed and remains unpaid. Further provisions require the final notice to state the amount that is unpaid on the day it is issued and that the amount is due within 21 days from the day the final notice is issued. If the payment is not paid within 21 days, then the unpaid balance of the chargeable amount (the annual balance) will become due on the following day.
- 4.10 Regulation 7 amends regulation 34 of the 1992 Regulations which provides the steps to be taken for a billing authority to make an application to a court for a liability order.
- 4.11 Regulation 7(b) inserts provisions to allow a billing authority in Wales to apply for a liability order where the amount stated in the final notice remains wholly or partly unpaid after a period of 21 days from the day a final notice was issued. The provisions allow a billing authority to apply for a liability order one day after the unpaid balance of the chargeable amount has become due.
- 4.12 As a consequence of the amendments to the reminder and final notices, Regulation 4 amends regulation 24 of the 1992 Regulations to reflect that the unpaid balance becomes due after a liable person has failed to pay the amount stated under a final notice rather than under a reminder notice. Similarly, Regulation 5 amends regulation 27 of the 1992 Regulations to enable the amendments made to regulation 33 operate in the case of jointly and severally liable council taxpayers.

- 4.13 The changes to reminder and final notices will give a household a minimum of 63 days from the date an instalment is missed to when the billing authority can apply for a liability order for the unpaid annual balance. This means a taxpayer could miss 3 instalments before a billing authority can take action to recover the debt if they have not paid the outstanding amount or agreed an alternative payment plan with the council.
- 4.14 Billing authorities in Wales already use the [Council Tax Protocol](#) as a guide to support struggling households. This protocol strengthens partnerships between billing authorities and enforcement agents and provides guidelines for supporting vulnerable households. Although not prescribed in the 2025 Regulations, the Welsh Government will provide non-statutory best practice guidance alongside the Council Tax Protocol to ensure a fair and consistent approach is taken to collect council tax across Wales, an approach that shifts focus to preventative activities earlier in the collection process. This will help billing authorities to collect taxes reasonably and offer alternative payment plans or other assistance to those struggling to pay.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 On the 30 April 2025 the Welsh Government launched a 12-week public [consultation](#) on the policy proposals to policy intent. The consultation received 272 responses from a range of stakeholders, including representative bodies, billing authorities, advice organisations and other members of the public. A [summary of responses](#) was published on 26 September 2025.
- 5.2 In addition to the formal consultation, a series of engagement sessions were offered to all Welsh billing authorities, with 19 out of 22 choosing to participate. These sessions provided a valuable forum to examine the proposals in depth and evaluate their practical and operational implications on a case-by-case basis and contribute directly to the development of the Regulatory Impact Assessment.

PART 2 – REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6. Options

- 6.1 This Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) presents two options in relation to improving the administration and enforcement of council tax. All costs and benefits quantified in this RIA are based on information available to the Welsh Government leading up to publication.
- 6.2 Most of the costs and benefits outlined in the RIA will be attributable to billing authorities. Given the range of differences between billing authority area, population, processes and case numbers, estimates based on averages and/or potential ranges of improvement have been presented to account for these variations.
- 6.3 This RIA does not include specific benefits associated with individual council tax bill arrears to billing authorities or taxpayers. Due to the variability in billing authority council tax rates charged, individual bills and arrears totals, such estimates would differ significantly on a case-by-case basis. Attempting to quantify these impacts could lead to inaccurate and potentially misleading conclusions.
- 6.4 The options considered are as follows.

Option 1 – Do nothing – retain the 1992 Regulations without further amendment and continue with the current statutory council tax billing, collection and enforcement framework.

Option 2 – Legislate to improve the administration and enforcement for the collection of council tax in Wales – make the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2025.

Costs and Benefits

Option 1 – Do nothing

- 6.5 The current council tax billing, collection, and enforcement practices will remain in place therefore no additional costs or benefits have been identified for the Welsh Government or billing authorities.
- 6.6 The current council tax billing, collection, and enforcement framework has been in place for over 30 years. The framework is well known and understood by billing authorities and advice agencies.
- 6.7 However, retaining the current framework may result in continued issues identified by stakeholders, such as lack of flexibility to support vulnerable households, outdated communication methods, and unfair enforcement

practices, still leading to the rapid escalation of council tax debts when payments are missed.

- 6.8 There may also be reputational costs for the Welsh Government and billing authorities if perceived inaction leads to criticism regarding fairness or equity in council tax processes. Not amending the enforcement regime would mean the Welsh Government's Programme for Government commitment to a fairer council tax would not be met.

Option 2 – Legislate to improve the administration and enforcement for the collection of council tax in Wales

Costs

- 6.9 The primary intent of the 2025 Regulations which amend the 1992 Regulations will modify key administration and enforcement procedures for the collection of unpaid council tax in Wales.
- 6.10 Specifically, the 2025 Regulations change the point at which the unpaid chargeable amount becomes legally due, lengthening it and moving it from the reminder notice stage to the final notice stage. This adjustment extends the timeframe before a billing authority can initiate formal enforcement proceedings to a minimum of 63 days from the date an instalment is missed.
- 6.11 Billing authorities in Wales will retain discretion and flexibility in issuing reminder notices for unpaid council tax instalments so long as the minimum timeframes are met. Authorities may issue reminders at a time they deem appropriate and may precede formal notices with 'softer' communications in the pre-reminder stage such as emails, text messages or other forms of engagement. Each reminder must state the amount owed on the day it is issued and can include any amounts that will become due with seven days of issuing the reminder. Authorities can also include any additional information they consider helpful, such as payment instructions or support options for residents struggling to pay.
- 6.12 The 2025 Regulations also amend how repeat missed payments are handled. Specifically, if a household misses a council tax instalment for a third time in the same financial year, they must now be treated in the same way as the first and second missed payments. Under this change, billing authorities are required to issue a reminder notice each time, ensuring the household is fully informed before any further action is taken. This replaces previous practices adopted by some authorities that bypassed reminders and final notices in cases of persistent late payment, proceeding straight to summons stage.
- 6.13 The 2025 Regulations also introduce a significant change by shifting the legal trigger for the annual unpaid balance becoming due from the issuance of a reminder notice to the final notice stage. This change extends the timeframe before billing authorities can begin formal enforcement procedures. Under the amended Regulations, authorities would issue a final notice and allow for a specified period to pass before applying to a court for a liability order. This

creates a clearer and more consistent process, potentially reducing the likelihood of abrupt legal action.

- 6.14 The legislative changes aim to standardise the process, ensuring that every taxpayer receives both a reminder and a final notice before enforcement can commence. While these changes aim to enhance engagement and transparency, they may also increase administrative costs, particularly for authorities that previously moved directly to enforcement where a household failed to pay after a reminder or had already received two reminders within a financial year.
- 6.15 To assess the potential impact, the Welsh Government requested data from all 22 billing authorities in Wales on the number of reminders, final notices, and summonses issued and liability orders granted during 2024-25, to use as a basis to evidence the effects of the amended Regulations.
- 6.16 During engagement sessions, billing authorities were also asked to estimate the additional costs they anticipated as a result of the legislative changes. Only one authority provided a cost estimate of £35k but did not explain the methodology used. Given the high volume of notices routinely issued to council taxpayers (with many taxpayers paying on receipt), and the absence of detailed tracking systems available to the Welsh Government, accurately assessing the financial impact remains challenging. The following estimates are based on the data collected. Other key determinants of the number of households in council tax debt are the general performance of the economy and the cost-of-living pressures households face. Where economic pressures are alleviated more generally, disposable income for households improves and so does ability to pay household bills.
- 6.17 During 2024–25, it is estimated that billing authorities in Wales collectively issued approximately 420,000 reminder notices and 130,000 final notices. However, local practices varied: some authorities did not issue final notices if a reminder remained unpaid after seven days, while others bypassed reminders altogether for households with repeated late payments. The absence of comprehensive data on the number of enforcement cases initiated without a reminder and/or final notice makes it difficult to accurately assess the potential increase in administrative costs.
- 6.18 For example, one authority that did not routinely issue final notices reported issuing around 25,000 reminders and 8,000 summonses during 2024–25. Under the new regulations, those 8,000 summons cases would have also required final notices, costing an estimated £12,400. Extrapolating this scenario across Wales, the annual cost impact ranges from £2,000 to £16,000 per authority, depending on the volume of summonses issued, amounting to an estimated £180,000 per year across Wales. Over a five-year RIA period, this would equate to a total present value cost of £841,000 across Wales. However, local practices vary. Not all 22 billing authorities omit final notices in this way, with many authorities in Wales issuing them routinely. As such, this estimated cost range may not represent an additional cost overall. Introducing final notices more consistently could also lead to a higher rate of debt resolution

and reduce the number of summonses issued and associated costly enforcement action.

- 6.19 Due to varied local practices, it is currently not possible to determine how many households settle outstanding amounts following a reminder or final notice. It is estimated that approximately 116,000 summonses were issued across Wales in 2024-25, resulting in the granting of around 91,000 liability orders. The difference likely reflects cases that were either paid in full or withdrawn. However, there is no clear data on how many of these cases followed the new notice sequence, which also makes it difficult to estimate the overall impact of the changes on administrative costs.
- 6.20 Authorities have also suggested that removing the previous rule, where individuals who had received two reminders within a financial year were no longer sent additional reminders, will result in increased administrative costs. Under the revised system, any taxpayer who pays after receiving a reminder must be issued a new reminder for each subsequent missed payment, regardless of how many reminders they have already received during the year. Although precise data on such cases is not available, an estimate suggests this change could result in a 30% increase in the volume of reminders issued. Based on this assumption, the potential cost impact varies across billing authorities, with estimates ranging from £3,500 to £33,000 per authority depending on the number of reminders issued, amounting to an estimated £195,000 per year. Over a five-year RIA period, this equates to a total present value cost of £911,000 across Wales.
- 6.21 The additional administration costs associated with issuing further notices is likely to vary between billing authorities. Key factors influencing these costs will depend on the size of the authority's tax base, their enforcement volumes, their existing practices and their level of digital maturity and modernised customer service approaches.
- 6.22 Authorities with more advanced digital communication systems, data-sharing procedures and modernised customer service approaches may experience only marginal cost increases, especially if they already utilise email or SMS reminders. Conversely, those reliant on more manual or paper-based processes may face higher per-unit administrative and postage costs. Discussions with billing authorities across Wales indicate that only six currently issue SMS text reminders.
- 6.23 Several of these costs could be mitigated through investment in digital channels. Enhancing digital engagement strategies, such as improving self-service platforms and promoting e-billing adoption, could help reduce reliance on physical notices and increase operational efficiency over time.
- 6.24 This presents an opportunity not only to manage costs more effectively but also to improve overall service accessibility, responsiveness, and environmental sustainability.

6.25 There is growing evidence that **text message reminders can be more effective** than traditional council tax reminder letters, both in terms of payment rates and administrative efficiency. Several UK billing authorities have trialled or adopted SMS reminders and reported notable improvements:

- [Elmbridge Borough Council](#) used GOV.UK Notify to send SMS reminders and achieved nearly £40,000 in back-office efficiency savings in the first year. They also saw a reduction in paper letters and improved on-time payments.
- [Dacorum Borough Council](#) sent 3,000 fewer letters over three months, saving £5,000 in postage and printing, and issued 400 fewer court summonses, saving residents over £22,000 in legal fees.
- [Rotherham Council](#) collected £1.8 million in council tax arrears in one year using SMS reminders and a mobile payment portal. Their click-through rates ranged from 34% to 67%, showing strong engagement.

6.26 Authorities in Wales have expressed concerns through consultation that extending collection timeframes may reduce the opportunity to recover debts within the same financial year, potentially allowing arrears to carry over into the next year and worsening financial hardship for households. They also raised concerns about the lack of enforcement tools available particularly in light of the removal of committal to prison in 2019, which they believe limits their ability to engage effectively with debtors who can pay but choose not to. As of 31 March 2025, total arrears across Wales stood at £263m, with £103m attributed to in-year arrears.

6.27 In response to rising arrears and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, many UK billing authorities have adopted the use of credit data and external datasets to enhance council tax collection. By using Credit Reference Agencies, billing authorities can analyse post-default payment behaviour, such as whether residents prioritise other debts, and identify signs of financial vulnerability. These insights enable billing authorities to tailor treatment strategies, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach.

6.28 The [Digital Economy Act Pilot](#) (2017) involving 29 billing authorities and the UK Government used HMRC employer data to recover post-liability order council tax debt. The initiative aimed to enhance debt recovery while supporting vulnerable individuals. Key outcomes of the pilot included:

- Recovery of approximately £5 million in outstanding debt, representing a 20% collection rate compared to the general rate of 3%;
- Identification of 7% of participants as vulnerable, who were subsequently offered support;
- Increased engagement from previously unresponsive debtors.

6.29 These examples show that authorities adopting data-driven and modernised customer engagement approaches may be better positioned to address concerns around collection rates. The use of these tools can improve

engagement, help maintain recovery performance, and mitigate the risk of escalating arrears.

6.30 Non-legislative elements of the Welsh Government's programme to improve council tax and enforcement practices includes consideration of such tools in partnership with local government.

6.31 To comply with the new requirements, billing authorities will need to revise operational procedures and update communications. These changes may involve minor modifications to billing software and staff training on the revised processes, resulting in modest short-term costs. Following consultation, average implementation costs including changes to software have been estimated at between £15,000 and £20,000 per authority. These are considered one-off expenses, which the Welsh Government intends to cover through a one-off grant in the 2025–26 financial year.

Benefits

6.32 Potential long-term savings could result from more efficient collection and reduced reliance on the costlier stages of enforcement (e.g., court proceedings).

6.33 Providing billing authorities with discretion over how and when to issue reminders allows for more tailored and responsive engagement strategies. This may include digital outreach (emails/texts) and more informative notices, aligning enforcement with best practices in modernised customer service methods.

6.34 The structured sequence of reminders and final notices is expected to foster better communication and engagement with taxpayers. A clearer, more consistent approach may lead to increased compliance and earlier resolution of non-payment issues, reducing the need for costly enforcement procedures.

6.35 Of the 116,000 summonses issued during 2024-25 it is reasonable to assume that the number withdrawn reflects effective engagement with households who agreed to alternative payment arrangements. Had these households responded to earlier reminder or final notices and settled their debts or sought help without progressing to the summons stage, the associated costs would have been significantly lower. However, some of these summonses would also have been resolved by determining eligibility for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme or an exemption, or where further information gathered by the authority was used to determine vulnerable cases. This complexity reflects the individualised nature of the council tax system and the ability to accurately quantify costs and benefits.

6.36 Since 2011, court fees related to enforcement action in Wales have been capped at £70. This fixed fee encompasses both the issuance of a summons and the subsequent application for a liability order.

Baseline scenario: A billing authority processes 5,000 council tax cases annually to the summons stage.

Average cost per summons: £50 (including staff time, administrative overheads, etc.).

Cost of issuing 10 monthly reminders per case: £15.50.

Table 6.1 Potential Savings from Early Engagement

% of Summons Withdrawn	Cases	Cost of Summonses	Cost of 10 Reminders	Potential Savings
5%	250	£12,500	£3,875	£8,625
10%	500	£25,000	£7,750	£17,250
20%	1,000	£50,000	£15,500	£34,500

6.37 Requiring both reminder and final notices before initiating enforcement ensures all taxpayers are treated equitably and fully informed at every stage. This more transparent process gives households a fairer opportunity to settle their accounts, seek help and advice before legal action begins, helping to prevent the rapid escalation of debt, and the associated stress and financial disadvantage.

6.38 Authorities that invest further in digital communication tools as enabled by other non-legislative elements to the Welsh Government’s policy aims, such as text messaging and earlier soft reminders, may benefit from improved efficiency and taxpayer engagement. This could potentially reduce the administrative costs associated with issuing formal reminders.

6.39 The benefits of the new regulations extend beyond cost savings. Improved compliance and earlier resolution of non-payment issues are expected to reduce the volume and cost of formal enforcement actions, including those which add further cost to the council tax debt through liability order administration and bailiff fees. The structured sequence of reminders and final notices fosters clearer communication and ensures equitable treatment of taxpayers. This more transparent process helps prevent the escalation of debt and reduces stress for households.

6.40 The following illustrative analysis is based on a billing authority processing 5,000 cases annually to enforce a liability order, at a cost of £70 per case. It shows that even modest improvements in early engagement can yield savings.

Table 6.2 Estimated Annual Savings from Early Resolution

Scenario	Cases Resolved Early	Enforcement Costs Avoided	
Conservative Case (5% improvement)	250 cases	£17,500	Minimal improvement
Moderate Case (10% improvement)	500 cases	£35,000	Steady improvement
Ambitious Case (20% improvement)	1,000 cases	£70,000	Strong engagement, digital-first authorities

6.41 No significant impact is expected on businesses or the wider economy.

Cost-Benefit Summary

6.42 Table 6.3 summarises the estimated costs and benefits associated with implementing the 2025 Regulations. These figures are indicative and intended to illustrate the potential financial and operational impact on billing authorities, recognising that actual outcomes will vary depending on factors such as authority size, enforcement volumes, local choices, digital maturity and modernised customer service approaches.

6.43 While the Regulations do not determine broader economic trends, key determinants of the volume of households in council tax debt also include the general performance of the economy and cost-of-living pressures, which determine ability to pay household bills.

6.44 Any costs of improving collection practices can also be viewed in relation to the routine annual cost of administering the wider local taxation system in Wales which is reportedly around £52m in net current [expenditure](#), and in relation to the [revenue](#) raised by the council tax system, over £2.8bn annually. In this context, while some authorities may incur minimal increases in administrative costs, others may realise moderate savings through improved compliance and reduced reliance on formal enforcement. The table also recognises the broader intangible benefits associated with a fairer, more transparent process that enhances taxpayer trust and reduces stress for households.

Table 6.3 Estimated Costs and Benefits Summary

Category	Estimated Impact	Notes
Initial implementation costs	Minimal one-off cost (£15k-20k per authority)	Software upgrade, procedural reviews
Administration costs	Minimal increase (e.g. £5k-49k per authority/year)	Additional notices to taxpayers, staff time
Improved compliance	Minimal to moderate savings (e.g. £8k-£34k per authority/year)	Improved on-time payments, reduced summons
Overall reduced enforcement costs	Minimal to moderate savings (e.g. £17k-70k per authority/year)	Less reliance on bailiffs, legal fees and appeals
Intangible benefits	High	Enhanced fairness for households, taxpayer trust, reduced stress, improved wellbeing

Note; figures are illustrative. Actual costs/benefits may vary based on authority size, digital maturity, local practices and enforcement volumes

Option selection

6.45 Retaining the current regulations without amendment would not fulfil the Welsh Government's commitment to improve the administration and enforcement of council tax in Wales. This approach would not build on the progress made through previous reforms, nor would it contribute to the Programme for Government commitment to create a fairer council tax system.

6.46 Option 2 is, therefore, the preferred option. By changing the administrative procedures and enforcement mechanisms, the amendments aim to reduce ambiguity, improve consistency across billing authorities, and promote a more equitable approach that takes account of individual circumstances.

7. Duties

7.1 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This policy will contribute towards the wellbeing objectives of a prosperous Wales; a more equal Wales; and a Wales of cohesive communities.

7.2 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

These proposals have had regard to the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. The Measure embeds consideration of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). No impacts have been identified.

7.3 Equalities

No specific impacts, positive or negative, on persons who share a protected characteristic (as determined by the Equality Act 2010) have been identified.

7.4 European Convention on Human Rights (“ECHR”)

The ECHR has been considered with regard to: - Article 8(1) - respect for private and family life and the home - Article 14 - prohibition of discrimination. There are no expected negative impacts on these rights as a result of this instrument.

7.5 Welsh Language

No effect on the opportunities to use the Welsh language or the equal treatment of the language has been identified in connection with the provisions of this instrument.

7.6 Voluntary sector

No negative impacts on the voluntary sector have been identified.

7.7 Justice

No impacts were identified following the completion of a Justice Impact Assessment, as a result of the making of this instrument.

8. Competition assessment

The competition filter test has been undertaken and has shown this instrument will have no direct impacts on products or services that would affect market competition.

9. Post-implementation review

Annual statistics are [published](#) by the Welsh Government measuring the collection rate of council tax and the amount of arrears, as reported by billing authorities. These provide an overview of the trends in Wales. The Welsh Government will work with billing authorities to monitor the impact of the statutory instrument to evaluate whether the legislative change has had the intended policy effect.