

Explanatory Memorandum to The Welsh Elections Information Platform (Amendments) Regulations 2026

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Elections Division 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 Welsh Elections Information Platform (Amendments) Regulations 2026.

Jayne Bryant MS

Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government
21 January 2026

PART 1

1. Description

- 1.1 The Welsh Elections Information Platform Regulations 2025 (“2025 Regulations”) were approved by the Senedd on 11 March 2025 and came into force on the 14 March 2025. At that time the Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025 (“the 2025 Conduct Order”) for Senedd elections was still in draft format and had not been laid. Therefore, any references to the 2025 Conduct Order within the 2025 Regulations instead referred to section 13 of GOWA 2006 and footnoted the relevant rules of The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 2007.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government gave a commitment that the 2025 Regulations would be amended following the making of the 2025 Conduct Order, to reflect the correct and updated references to it, which was made on 25 September 2025.
- 1.3 In response to the Legislation Justice and Constitution Committee’s (“LJCC”) report on the 2025 Regulations, the Welsh Government also committed to provide for a definition of an ‘individual candidate’ (which would reflect that provided in the 2025 Conduct Order) and that amendment would be made at the same time as the reference amendments.
- 1.4 Regulation 11(1)(b) of the 2025 Regulations specifies that candidate statements for ordinary elections of principal councils must use Times New Roman Script font. As the platform is being developed it has become clear that this provision does not support accessibility principles and is therefore being omitted by these regulations.

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

- 2.1 As noted in the section above, these Regulations make amendments as agreed to in response to the LJCC’s report on The Welsh Elections Information Platform Regulations 2025 (SL(6)582¹).

3. Legislative background

- 3.1 The Welsh Ministers have the power to make regulations under section 26(1) of the Elections and Elected Bodies (Wales) Act 2024. The 2025 Regulations implement this provision and provide for the Welsh Elections Information Platform.

¹ <https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=45195>

3.2 These regulations will be subject to the Senedd annulment procedure.

4. Purpose and intended effect of the legislation

- 4.1 The technical amendments are required to provide precise references to the relevant Articles within the 2025 Conduct Order to improve accessibility for the reader of the SI, the users of the platform and the platform operators.
- 4.2 The omission of Part 4, Section 11 (1) (b) of the 2025 Regulations allows the platform operator to maintain accessibility of candidate statements when published on the platform.

5. Consultation

Formal consultation

- 5.1 Given the entirely technical nature of the amendments made by these regulations, no formal consultation is necessary.

6. Regulatory Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The Regulatory Impact Assessment Code for Subordinate Legislation states to carry out an RIA except in certain circumstances – one being: Where routine technical amendments or factual amendments are required to update regulations etc. that have no major policy impact. This can be considered for these Regulations, and therefore an RIA is not required.