



17 January 2024

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament

by email



Scrutiny of statutory instruments which contain Welsh text

Thank you for your letter of 13 December 2023 enquiring how the House of Lords Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee approaches the scrutiny of secondary legislation containing Welsh text that has been laid before the UK Parliament.

As with the example you cite in your letter, the Government includes such material on the basis that it is equivalent to the English text and we accept it as such. We understand it is for each Government department to provide the translation of any material: there is no central Government resource, although use of an accredited translator is recommended.

Our focus is solely on the policy content of the instrument and does not extend to legal or drafting issues such as the accuracy of the Welsh translation. Questions about the drafting of the instrument itself are the purview of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, who, I understand, will send their own response. Our remit is to draw to the attention of the House of Lords any matters of policy interest in the secondary legislation put before it, and their operating language is English.

That said, may I take this opportunity to reassure you that, when considering the policy objectives and proposed implementation of any secondary legislation, we are vigilant about asking the sponsoring department whether the Devolved Governments have been consulted and what views they expressed. Our reports highlight any issues we find which might suggest inconsistencies between the jurisdictions, for example in our recent report on *the Draft Wine (Revocation and Consequential Provision) Regulations 2023* ([2nd Report of this session](#)).

I am copying this letter to the Procedure Committees and the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.



Rt Hon. the Lord Hunt of Wirral, MBE
Chair of the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee