

## **Government Response: The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 5) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 23) Regulations 2021**

### **Merit Scrutiny point 3:**

1. The Welsh Government routinely prepares and publishes Summary Impact Assessments in relation to changes in the Coronavirus regulations at the earliest opportunity after each review period. These Summary Impact Assessments can be accessed [here](#).
2. The Summary Impact Assessments covers the following areas:
  - Wellbeing Impact
  - Economic Impact Assessment
  - Equality Impact Assessment
  - Children's Rights Impact Assessment (if applicable and not sufficiently covered in the Equality Impact Assessment)
  - Human Rights Impact Assessment
  - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

### **Merit Scrutiny point 4:**

3. Working from home is one of the key protective behaviours that can help minimise transmission rates especially when community transmission rates are high. Working from home ensures individual contacts inevitably go down. It has been accepted as a particularly effective measure to decrease the spread of COVID during the pandemic as reflected in the Consensus statement from the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling, Operational sub-group (SPI-M-O) for the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), 30th June 2021 - [S1298 SPI-M-O Consensus Statement.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
4. The Welsh Government routinely publishes the advice on coronavirus it receives from the Technical Advisory Cell which is available [here](#). In the TAC advice dated 2 December the recommendation is to encourage the reduction of social contacts, "especially through increased working from home when that is a viable business option". This advice is available [here](#).
5. Survey and mobility data at the point the decision was made indicated that guidance and messaging was not having the desired effect in shifting the proportion of people working from home in Wales to minimise the spread of COVID. At that point the data suggested the number of people working from home was at one of the lowest points since the beginning of the pandemic.