

Dear all,

As you are aware Wales entered level 4 Covid-19 related restrictions on Saturday the 20th of December. While these restrictions are will be reviewed regularly the Minister for Housing and Local Government has been considering the implications of the current, and likely future, situation on elections. In particular, the re-scheduled local government by-elections are of concern. The Minister has therefore decided that in the New Year she will bring forward new Regulations that will move the window for postponed by-elections to **1st March 2021 – 6th May 2021**. This means that the holding of by-elections in February will no longer be possible once the Regulations have come into force. As these Regulations will be made early in the New Year we ask Returning Officers and administrators to consider carefully whether it is within the public interest to issue notices of elections at the end of December as the current Regulations allow for. This change has been made in order to provide the electoral community with a longer period of time to prepare for the by-elections and also to move the dates toward the spring.

As ever the Welsh Government elections team will be happy to help with any queries, please email: Etholiadau.elections@gov.wales

Angharad

Angharad C Thomas-Richards

Pennaeth tîm Etholiadau Llywodraeth Leol / Head of Local Government Elections team
Yr is-adran Democratiaeth Llywodraeth Leol/ Local Government Democracy Division

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

E: angharad.thomasrichards@gov.wales

Ff/T: 03000 258 129 / 07971 277469