



10 September 2021

Dear Stakeholder

Adoption and Fostering (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020

As you are aware the Adoption and Fostering (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) came into force on 1st November 2020 and were extended for six months on 30th March 2021. They relaxed some administrative and procedural obligations associated with the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 to support the delivery of children’s services during the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Adoption Agencies (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2005 – Stage 1 and 2 Assessment Process

- i) Easements of certain procedural requirements were introduced which enabled stage 1 and stage 2 of the two stage assessment process to run concurrently. The requirement remained however that all the necessary checks need to be fully completed before an adopter is approved.
- ii) Easements associated with the timescales for completion of stages 1 and 2 and length of time prospective adopter can pause between stage 1 and 2 were introduced:

2. Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015

- i) An extension was provided to the period from 16 to 24 weeks during which a person related to or otherwise connected with a child may receive temporary approval to act as a local authority foster parent for that child.

The situation with the pandemic has improved and restrictions have continued to be lifted. I am therefore writing to let you know that once the Regulations expire on 30th September, Welsh Government will not be extending them further. As such the adoption and fostering sectors will need to reinstate the processes associated with

the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015 from the 1st October 2021.

I would like to thank you for your continued work in ensuring the adoption and fostering sectors have continued to operate effectively during the pandemic.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Davey', is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Alistair Davey *MA Chartered FCIPD*
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Directorate of Social Services and Integration