

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd**  
**Minister for Finance and Trefnydd**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Our ref: MA-JJ-2895-20

Elin Jones AS/MS  
Llywydd  
Senedd Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd CF99 1SN

17 September 2020

Dear Llywydd,

**The Planning Applications (Temporary Modifications and Disapplication) (No.2) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 (“the Order”)**

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, as inserted by Sch.10 para 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, I am notifying you that this Statutory Instrument has come into force less than 21 days from the date of laying. The explanatory memorandum which accompanies the Order is attached for your information.

The Order seeks to extend the period during which temporary arrangements introduced by The Planning Applications (Temporary Modifications and Disapplication) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 (“the first 2020 Order”) apply to the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (the “DMPWO”) and the Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016.

The temporary arrangements set out in the first 2020 Order were introduced to overcome the closure of non-essential public buildings and the restrictions on non-essential travel, which were preventing the planning system functioning effectively. These are due to end on 18 September but will be extended to 8 January 2021.

As the coronavirus restrictions have gradually been lifted, the need for the temporary arrangements should have fallen away. What we have found however is despite the legal restrictions having been lifted, many public buildings such as libraries and council offices have remained closed, or subject to limited access. As a result, the provisions set out in the first 2020 Order remain necessary to maintain the efficient operation of the planning system.

The Order is required to come into force by 18 September to maintain continuity of planning services.

Not bringing the Order into force straight away will cause a backlog of planning applications waiting to be submitted, which would have consequential impacts for the construction sector, and economy, at a time when rapid reversal of financial losses is important to lessen the longer term economic and social damage being caused. Not adhering to the 21-day convention is thought necessary and justifiable in this case.

Due to the immediate need for the Order it has not been subject to consultation, however, an Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the Regulations, in Table Office.

A copy of this letter goes to Mick Antoniw MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd  
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd