

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE REFERENDUM ON THE VOTING SYSTEM (WELSH FORMS) ORDER 2011**

**2011 NO. 880**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Cabinet Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
2. **Purpose of the instrument**
  - 2.1 The Order prescribes the Welsh versions of certain prescribed forms and forms of words to be used in Wales at the referendum on the United Kingdom Parliamentary voting system.
3. **Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**
  - 3.1 None.
4. **Legislative Context**
  - 4.1 The Order prescribes the Welsh versions of certain forms and forms of words contained in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.
5. **Territorial Extent and Application**
  - 5.1 This instrument applies to Wales.
6. **European Convention on Human Rights**
  - 6.1 As the instrument is only required to be laid before Parliament and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.
7. **Policy background**
  - **What is being done and why**
    - 7.1 The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 prescribes a range of forms and forms of words to be used in the referendum in relation to various aspects of the electoral process, including postal voting and voting at polling stations. This Order provides translations of these forms and forms of words, and ensures that the Welsh versions are consistent with the current English versions.

Examples of forms in the Order are:-

- Form of ballot paper, providing a Welsh translation of the referendum question and “yes” and “no” boxes;
- Postal Voting Statements;
- Official Poll Card, including poll cards for proxy and postal voters;
- Corresponding Number List; and
- Forms to give guidance to voters in the referendum.

The Order also contains the forms for Postal Voting Statements to be used in the election to the National Assembly for Wales where that election is combined with the referendum, and various forms to be used where the referendum is combined, or not combined, with the National Assembly for Wales election.

## **8. Consultation outcome**

8.1 The Electoral Commission was consulted on the Order. It is content with the Welsh Forms contained within the Order.

## **9. Guidance**

9.1 The Electoral Commission will prepare and issue guidance to administrators on the conduct of the referendum. No guidance is directly required as a result of this Order.

## **10. Impact**

10.1 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is nil.

10.2 The impact on the public sector is nil.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

## **11. Regulating small business**

11.1 The legislation does not apply to small business.

## **12. Monitoring & review**

12.1 The Cabinet Office will work with the Electoral Commission and electoral administrators to ensure that any overall legislative lessons which are learnt as a result of the conduct of the referendum can be applied for the administration of future polls.

## **13. Contact**

13.1 Maxine Monks at the Cabinet Office Tel: 020 3334 4772 or

email: [Maxine.monks@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Maxine.monks@justice.gsi.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.