

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 9: Miscellaneous

Section 166 – Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities: inquiries

724. This section amends sections 2 and 4 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to remove the requirement for the Welsh Ministers to hold an inquiry before varying a Fire and Rescue Authority's ("FRA") combination scheme, except where the variation would alter the area served by the FRA, or would revoke the combination scheme.
725. As a result of amendments made by this section to section 2(9)(c) and 4(7)(b) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, no inquiry will be required if a combination scheme is to be made, varied or revoked solely for the purpose of giving effect to an order under Part 3 of the 2013 Act (arrangements for local government) or regulations under Part 7 of this Act (mergers and restructuring of principal areas).
726. As a result of the amendment to section 2(10), a scheme under section 2 may be made (but not come into force) in advance of an order made under Part 3 of the 2013 Act or regulations made under Part 7 of this Act coming into force.
727. [Section 166](#) also amends section 34(3) of the 2013 Act to require the Boundary Commission to consult any FRA for an area which may be affected by a proposed review of local government arrangements under Part 3 of that Act.