



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Number: WG50013

Welsh Government

Consultation - Summary of Responses and the
Government Response on the Provision of
automatic fire suppression systems in care homes
for children

May 2024

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg /
We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

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WG50013, Digital ISBN 978-1-83625-123-1

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Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of the responses to the Welsh Government's consultation¹ on the provision of automatic fire suppression systems in care homes for children. The consultation took place between 14 December 2022 and 7 March 2023. This report is structured to follow the questions set out in the consultation.

Consultation Responses - Overview

2. Overall, there were 23 responses to the consultation. Respondents who completed the consultation response form were asked to assign their organisation to types identified on the form (including a self-designated 'other' option). The table below shows the number of responses received from each sector.

Type of Organisation: Choose one of the following:	Select one
• Builder/Developer	
• Manufacturer	1
• Designer/Engineer/Surveyor	1
• Local Authority Building Control	7
• Approved Inspector Building Control	1
• Access Consultant	
• Occupational Therapist	
• Disabled People's Organisation	
• Facilities Manager	
• Retailer	
• Construction Professional	1
• Property Manager/Landlord	
• Landlord Representative Organisation	
• Changing Places User/Carer	
• Parent/Carer	
• Charity	1
• Campaigner or Lobby Group	2
• Other Interested Party (please specify)	6

¹ Available at: [Automatic fire suppression systems in care homes for children | GOV.WALES](#)

Consultation responses – Brief Summary

Question 1

Do you support the proposed amendment to the definition in Regulation 2 of the Building Regulations?

3. The majority of respondents supported the proposed amendment to the definition in Regulation 2 of the Building Regulations. Those who supported the amendment identified that currently the two different pieces of legislation causes confusion and the aim to include relevant requirements under once piece of legislation is sensible. It was identified this would provide clarification and consistency of interpretation and administration of the Building Regulations.
4. The small number who disagreed with the change to regulation 2 thought the term “vulnerability or need” was open to interpretation.

Question 2

Do you agree the amendments to Regulation 37A of the Building Regulations provide equivalence to the provisions in the Measure?

5. The majority (22) of respondents agreed that the amendments to Regulation 37A of the Building Regulations provide equivalence to the provisions in the Measure. Many respondents set out the importance of equivalence and the life safety benefits of fire suppression systems.
6. Following a post consultation clarification discussion, the one respondent who disagreed with question two withdrew their comments.

Question 3

If you have any further comments to make regarding the proposals, please set them out here.

7. There were a few additional comments on the proposals, these included concerns over care homes for the elderly, concerns over temporary buildings with a life expectancy of 2 years and a desire for a different approach to resolve the issue.

Question 4

Do you agree the impact assessment previously undertaken remains relevant?

8. The majority (19) of respondents agree the impact assessment previously undertaken remains relevant. Only a single comment was provided on alternative costs, these considered the amendments would have further implications in the building regulations and therefore the impact assessment is no longer reflective of the proposals.

Question 5

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposed amendments would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Question 5a

Please also explain how you believe the proposed actions could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects, or increased positive effects, on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

9. Most respondents felt the proposals would have no impact on the Welsh Language or held no views on this topic. Some users identified that documents could be published in Welsh.

Welsh Government response

10. Following the response Q.1 from those who disagreed with the interpretation of regulation 2 and the use of the wording “vulnerability or need”, a further review was undertaken of the wording. Following this review the wording has now been changed to “under the age of 18 years”. The change of wording was reviewed and accepted by leading stakeholders in industry. It is our intension to take forward proposals to include “under the age of 18” within Regulation 2 - Building Regulations 2010 definition of “Institution”.