

**Response to Consultation on Draft Statutory Guidance on Remote Attendance**

- 1 Each paragraph of the final version should be numbered.
- 2 The draft guidance needs to take more account of the resource implications of what is being proposed.
- 3 The reference in the eighth paragraph to “The probable need for an officer to be present at the remote location” should be deleted because of the resource implications.
- 4 The paragraphs dealing with the equality between the languages should be deleted. It should be left to the choice of each authority to decide whether translation facilities will be provided for any remote attendance taking account of all the circumstances including its normal practice at meetings and the response implications.
- 5 In the penultimate paragraph on the third page the view of the Welsh Government expressed here is inconsistent with the legislation itself and should be deleted. Section 4 (3) (c) makes clear that Councils standing orders can prohibit remote attendance. This is also explained in the penultimate paragraph on the first page of the draft guidance.
- 6 The ante penultimate paragraph on the last page should be amended to change the emphasis so that those attending remotely take the risk of the technology failing rather than expecting what will be the majority attending at the normal meeting place to be inconvenienced and the meeting to be abandoned partway through.
- 7 If the final version of the guidance reflects the current draft then the Welsh Government needs to provide the funding to meet the resource implications of it.