



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

Title: Referendum update

Date: 21 October 2010

By: Carwyn Jones , the First Minister

I am pleased to inform Assembly Members that the draft Referendum Order in Council has been laid in the Assembly today. This has been laid together with the Electoral Commission's report on the referendum question and the preceding statement and the draft Order in Council to amend Schedule 7 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The draft Referendum Order sets out the referendum question and the statement to precede it on the ballot paper, rules for the conduct of the referendum and the referendum date. The referendum date is 3 March 2010. The referendum question is the revised question that the Electoral Commission put forward in light of their research. The draft Order also makes detailed provision about voting and counting arrangements.

The draft Schedule 7 Order amends Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act, which lists the subjects about which the Assembly would be able to pass Assembly Acts if the majority of voters in the March referendum vote yes. The draft Schedule 7 amendment Order reflects the changes in the National Assembly's legislative competence since 2007 achieved via Legislative Competence Orders and Acts of Parliament. The main aim of the update is to ensure that no legislative competence gained by the National Assembly for Wales since 2007 would be lost in the event of a yes vote.

In the event that the Assembly approves these two draft Orders by the required majorities, they will both then be considered by each House of Parliament before being submitted to Her Majesty in Council for final approval in December.