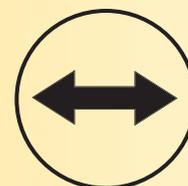


The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005

Date of Issue: **September 2004**

Action Required: Responses by **23 December 2004**

Consultation
Document



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Adran Hyfforddiant ac Addysg
Department for Training and Education



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

- Title of Document:** The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005
- Audience:** Local Education Authorities; Governing Bodies of Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools; Church Diocesan Authorities; 5% sample of community schools in Wales; Estyn; Council on Tribunals; Secretaries of Professional Organisations in Wales.
- Overview:** This document consults on the Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005. These regulations will make the admissions appeal framework more streamlined and will contribute to increased consistency in procedures. Responses to this consultation will inform the Assembly's decision on the content of these regulations.
- Action required:** Please respond by **23 December 2004**
Response forms can be sent to the following address:
Mrs Christina Morgans
Schools Management Division 3
Department for Training and Education
Welsh Assembly Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ
or completed electronically and sent to:
SMD3Consultations@wales.gsi.gov.uk
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Or from the Assembly's website www.learning.wales.gov.uk
- Related documents:** The Welsh Office Code of Practice on School Admissions 1999
The National Assembly for Wales Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals 1999
Education Act 1996
School Standards and Framework Act 1998
Education Act 2002
The Education (School Information) (Wales) Regulations 1999, No 1812
The New Schools (Admissions) (Wales) Regulations 1999, No 2800 (W.14)

The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005

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THE EDUCATION (ADMISSION APPEALS ARRANGEMENTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2005

SUMMARY

This consultation invites comments on the content of proposed Regulations to be made under sections 94 and 95 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the 1998 Act) as amended by the Education Act 2002 (the 2002 Act). It follows a more general consultation on admissions arrangements which took place in July 2003.

The 1998 Act introduced a new admissions framework designed to make admission arrangements and procedures clearer, fairer and more objective and to allow parental preferences to be met as far as possible.

The 2002 Act amended the 1998 Act by introducing a number of measures to strengthen the existing framework and allows for provisions relating to admission appeals procedures to be dealt with in Regulations rather than set out in the Primary Legislation. This will enable changes to be made more easily in future.

Since current arrangements appear to be working reasonably well, the proposed draft Regulations make only very minor changes to the current provisions within the 1998 Act, but this consultation will inform the Assembly Government's decision on their content.

SECTION 1: LEGAL PROVISIONS

1.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the 1998 Act) introduced a new admissions framework designed to make admissions arrangements and procedures clearer, fairer and more objective and to allow parental preferences to be met as far as possible. In Wales statutory Codes of Practice on School Admissions and School Admission Appeals were introduced in April 1999 and September 1999 respectively.

1.2 One feature of the framework is that parents have the **right to appeal** to an independent appeal panel, if they are refused a place for their child at a preferred school. Under Section 94 of the 1998 Act arrangements must be made by an admissions authority enabling parents to appeal against school admission decisions, including decisions refusing permission to children already admitted to a school to enter the school's sixth form.

1.3 In addition, under Section 95, arrangements must be made by a local education authority enabling a governing body of a community or voluntary controlled school to appeal against the authority's decision to admit a child who, at the time a decision was made, has been permanently excluded from two or more schools.

1.4 In general the admissions framework seems to be working well in Wales. The Education Act 2002 (the 2002 Act) amends the 1998 Act by introducing a number of measures to strengthen the existing framework. In respect of appeals, the 2002 Act moved provisions from the Primary Legislation into Regulations to enable them to be more readily amended in the future.

SECTION 2: SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS

2.1 The Regulations largely re-enact Schedules 24 and 25 to the 1998 Act which contain the procedures which must be followed when processing appeals brought under sections 94 and 95 of the 1998 Act as amended by the 2002 Act. The minor changes which have been made are as follows:

- A duty to set out particulars of the arrangements for making an appeal, including information containing the contact details for whichever body or bodies are responsible for those arrangements, has been prescribed, to be included in notifications to parents about admission decisions.
- Clarification that appeals include those against decisions refusing permission to children already admitted to a school to enter the school's sixth form.
- A 3 year cycle for advertising for lay members for appeals panels has been prescribed.
- An additional reason why an appeal panel member may have to withdraw has been identified.

2.2 The Regulations set out the arrangements for appeals panels required to be established by local education authorities, a governing body, or where joint arrangements are made by two or more governing bodies, or the local authority and one or more governing bodies.

2.3 Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 prescribe how the panel should be constituted, including descriptions of the persons eligible to be members, and the procedure to be adopted in the event of members being unable to continue with an appeal.

2.4 Regulation 4 sets out an admission authority's duty to advertise for lay members, on a 3 yearly cycle.

2.5 Regulation 5 and Schedule 2 prescribe the procedure which an appeal panel is to adopt when hearing an appeal.

2.6 Regulation 6 sets out the matters which an appeals panel must take into account when hearing an appeal and Regulations 7 and 8 make provisions for payment of allowances and indemnification of members against expenses or legal costs.

SECTION 3: GUIDANCE

3.1 A Code of Practice on admission appeals will be produced in connection with these Regulations. The new Code of Practice will update and expand on the current Code which was issued in 1999. The Code of Practice will complement the Regulations and explain the practical implications in more detail. Responses from the 2003 consultation have led us to conclude that the revised Code of Practice on admission appeals will need to provide detail on:

- the procedures to be followed when informing parents about their right of appeal, including information as to why an application was unsuccessful
- the timing of appeals
- the training of panel members
- joint arrangements for appeals
- dealing with appeals for admission to infant classes in the light of legislative limits.

Consultation on the revised Code of Practice on admission appeals can be expected in 2005.

SECTION 4: RESPONSES

4.1 Please respond on the enclosed proforma by 23 December 2004. The completed proforma should be sent to the following address:

Mrs Christina Morgans
Schools Management Division 3
Department for Training and Education
Welsh Assembly Government
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:
SMD3Consultations@wales.gsi.gov.uk

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2005 No. (W.)

EDUCATION, WALES

The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations prescribe matters relating to appeals brought under sections 94 and 95 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002.

Under section 94 arrangements must be made by a local education authority or in the case of a foundation or voluntary aided school, a governing body, enabling parents to appeal against school admission decisions, including decisions refusing permission to children already admitted to a school to enter the school's sixth form.

Under section 95 arrangements must be made by a local education authority enabling a governing body of a community or voluntary school to appeal against the authority's decision to admit a child who, at the time the decision was made, has been permanently excluded from two or more schools.

Regulation 3 of, and Schedule 1 to these Regulations make provision as to the manner in which an appeal panel is to be constituted where appeal arrangements are made by a local education authority, a governing body, or where joint arrangements are made by two or more governing bodies, or the local education authority and one or more governing bodies.

Regulation 4 sets out an admission authority's duty to advertise for lay members.

Regulation 5 of, and Schedule 2, to these Regulations prescribe the procedure which an appeal panel is to adopt when hearing an appeal.

Regulation 6 sets out the matters that the admission appeal panel are required to take into account when hearing an appeal.

Regulation 7 makes provision for the payment of allowances to appeal panel members by the local education authority or governing body responsible for making the arrangements in respect of financial loss, and travel and subsistence expenses.

Regulation 8 imposes a duty on the local education authority or governing body responsible for making the appeal arrangements to indemnify appeal panel members against expenses or legal costs incurred in respect of any decision they make.

2005 No. (W.)

EDUCATION, WALES

The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005

Made [] 2005

Coming into force [] 2005

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by sections 94(5), (5A), (5C), 95(3), (3A), (3B) and 138(7) of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998(a), now vested in the National Assembly(b) and after consultation with the Council on Tribunals in accordance with section 8 of the Tribunal and Inquiries Act 1992(c) the National Assembly for Wales makes the following Regulations:

Name, commencement and application

1.—(1) These Regulations are called the Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005 and come into force on [] 2005.

(2) These Regulations apply only in relation to Wales.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations —

“the 1972 Act” (“*Deddf 1972*”) means the Local Government Act 1972(d);

-
- (a) 1998 c.31. Sub-sections (5), (5A), and (5C) of section 94 were substituted by section 50 of the Education Act 2002 c.32. Sub-sections (3), (3A) and (3B) of section 95 were substituted by section 51 of, and paragraph 9 of Schedule 4 to, the Education Act 2002. For the definition of “prescribed” and “regulations” see section 142(1) of the 1998 Act.
- (b) See the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/672) and section 211 of the Education Act 2002.
- (c) 1992 c.53, amended by paragraph 22 of Schedule 21 to the Education Act 2002.
- (d) 1972 c.70.

“the 1998 Act” (*“Deddf 1998”*) means the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

- (2) Any reference in these Regulations to-
- (a) a numbered section is a reference to that section of the 1998 Act, unless stated otherwise;
 - (b) a teacher includes a headteacher.

Constitution of appeal panels

3. Where arrangements or joint arrangements are made by —

- (a) a local education authority under section 94(1) or (1A)(a);
- (b) the governing body of a foundation or voluntary aided school under section 94(2) or (2A)(b);
- (c) the governing bodies of two or more foundation or voluntary aided schools maintained by the same local education authority, in accordance with section 94(3)(c);
- (d) a local education authority and the governing body or bodies of one or more foundation or voluntary aided schools maintained by the authority, in accordance with section 94(4)(d);
- (e) a local education authority under section 95(2),

an appeal is to be made to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with the relevant paragraph of Schedule 1.

Duty to advertise for lay members

4.—(1) In this regulation —

- (a) “appropriate authority” (*“awdurdod priodol”*) means the body or the bodies responsible for making the arrangements described in regulation 3;
- (b) “lay member” (*“aelod lleyg”*) has the meaning given to it by paragraphs 1(3) and 2(3) of Schedule 1 .

(2) The appropriate authority must during the period referred to in paragraph (3), secure the publication of an advertisement for lay members of appeal panels

-
- (a) Section 94(1A) was inserted by section 51 of, and paragraph 8(1) and (2) of Schedule 4 to, the Education Act 2002.
 - (b) Section 94(2A) was inserted by section 51 of, and paragraph 8(1) and (3) of Schedule 4 to, the Education Act 2002.
 - (c) Section 94(3) was amended by section 51 of, and paragraph 8(1) and (4) of Schedule 4 to, the Education Act 2002.
 - (d) Section 94(4) was amended by section 51 of, and paragraph 8(1) and (5) of Schedule 4 to, the Education Act 2002.

constituted in accordance with any of the paragraphs of Schedule 1.

(3) The advertisement referred to in paragraph (2) must be published before the end of the three year period starting when the last advertisement was published for lay members of an appeal panel constituted in accordance with Schedule 24 to the 1998 Act, and thereafter in every three year period following the date upon which an advertisement (or the final advertisement of a series of advertisements) was last published in accordance with this regulation.

(4) The advertisement referred to in paragraph (2) above must —

- (a) identify by name, class, or general description the schools served by the appeal panels to which the advertisement refers;
- (b) be placed in at least one local newspaper circulating in the area in which the schools identified in the advertisement are situated;
- (c) allow a period of at least 21 days from the date of publication of the advertisement for replies.

(5) Before appointing any lay member the appropriate authority must consider any eligible persons who have applied to the authority in response to the most recent advertisement or series of advertisements placed in pursuance of paragraph (2) indicating that they wish to be considered for such appointment.

Procedure for appeals

5. An appeal to which these Regulations apply must be made in accordance with Schedule 2.

Relevant considerations in appeals brought under sections 94 and 95 of the 1998 Act

6.—(1) In relation to an appeal made under the arrangements specified in regulation 3(a) to (d), the matters to be taken into account by an appeal panel, in considering an appeal, are to include —

- (a) any preference expressed by the appellant in respect of the child as mentioned in section 86; and
- (b) the arrangements for the admission of pupils published by the local education authority or the governing body in accordance with regulations made under section 92(a).

(a) S.I. 1994/1303. Section 92 was substituted by paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to the Education Act 2002.
[The Regulations in force at the time of making these Regulations are [to be completed - full references to SEN Info / school Info].

(2) Where the decision under appeal was made on the ground that prejudice of the kind referred to in section 86(3)(a) would arise as mentioned in subsection (4) of that section, an appeal panel may determine that a place is to be offered to the child only if they are satisfied —

- (a) that the decision was not one which a reasonable admission authority would make in the circumstances of the case; or
- (b) that the child would have been offered a place if the admission arrangements (as published in accordance with regulations made under section 92) had been properly implemented.

(3) In relation to an appeal made under arrangements specified in regulation 3(e), an appeal panel in considering an appeal must have regard to —

- (a) the reasons for the local education authority's decision that the child in question should be admitted; and
- (b) any reasons put forward by the governing body as to why the child's admission would be inappropriate.

Payment of allowances

7.—(1) For the purpose of the payment of financial loss allowance under section 173(4) of the 1972 Act(a), that provision is to apply to any member of an appeal panel constituted in accordance with any of the paragraphs of Schedule 1, and in that section as it so applies the reference to an approved duty is to be read as a reference to attendance at a meeting of an appeal panel.

(2) Section 174(1) of the 1972 Act(b) is to apply in relation to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with any of the paragraphs of Schedule 1, and in that section as it so applies, the reference to payments at rates determined by the body in question is to be read as a reference to payments at rates determined —

- (a) by the authority, in the case of an appeal panel constituted under arrangements referred to in regulation 3(a), (d) or (e);
- (b) otherwise by the governing body or bodies of the school or schools in question.

Indemnity

8.—(1) Any local education authority or governing body making arrangements such as are referred to in

(a) Section 173(4) was amended by section 194 of, and paragraph 26 of Schedule 11 to, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 c. 42.

(b) Section 174(1) was amended by section 25 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 c.65.

regulation 3 must indemnify the members of any appeal panel constituted for the purposes of those arrangements against any reasonable legal costs and expenses reasonably incurred by those members in connection with any decision or action taken by them in good faith in pursuance of their functions as members of that panel.

(2) Where any such panel is constituted by —

- (a) the governing bodies of two or more foundation or voluntary aided schools maintained by the same local education authority; or
- (b) a local education authority and the governing body or bodies of one or more foundation or voluntary aided schools maintained by the authority,

any liability arising under paragraph (1) is to be a joint and several liability of the bodies by whom the joint arrangements are made unless otherwise previously agreed in writing between those bodies.

Signed on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales under section 66(1) of the Government of Wales Act 1998(a).

Date

The Presiding Officer of the National Assembly

(a) 1998 c.38.

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 3

CONSTITUTION OF APPEAL PANELS

Arrangements made by a local education authority

1.—(1) Where the arrangements are those referred to in regulation 3(a), an appeal panel is to consist of three or five members appointed by a local education authority from —

- (a) persons who are eligible to be lay members; and
- (b) persons who have experience in education or who are acquainted with educational conditions in the area of the authority; or
- (c) persons who are parents of registered pupils at a school.

(2) Of the members of an appeal panel —

- (a) at least one must be a person who is eligible to be a lay member and is appointed as such; and
- (b) at least one must be a person falling within sub-paragraph (1)(b) or (1)(c).

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph a person is eligible to be a lay member if he or she is a person without personal experience in the management of any school or the provision of education in any school (disregarding any such experience as a governor or in any other voluntary capacity).

(4) Sufficient persons may be appointed by the authority under this paragraph to enable two or more appeal panels to sit at the same time.

(5) No person is to be a member of an appeal panel if he or she is disqualified by virtue of sub-paragraph (6).

(6) The following persons are disqualified from membership of an appeal panel —

- (a) any member of the authority or governing body of the school in question;
- (b) any person employed by the authority or the governing body or governing bodies, other than a person employed as a teacher;
- (c) any person who has, or at any time has had, any connection with -
 - (i) the authority or the school, or
 - (ii) any person within paragraph (b)

of a kind which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about his or her ability to act impartially in relation to the authority or the school.

(7) A person employed as a teacher by the authority is not to be taken, by reason only of that employment, to have such a connection with the authority as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (6)(c).

(8) A person is not to be a member of an appeal panel for the consideration of an appeal against a decision if he or she was among those who made the decision or took part in discussions as to whether the decision should be made.

(9) A person who is a teacher at a school is not to be a member of an appeal panel for the consideration of an appeal involving a question whether a child is to be admitted to that school.

(10) Where, at any time after an appeal panel which consists of five members has begun to consider an appeal, any of the members —

- (a) dies; or
- (b) becomes unable through illness to continue as a member; or
- (c) becomes unable to continue as a member because doubts may reasonably be raised about his or her ability to act impartially,

the panel may continue with their consideration and determination of the appeal so long as the number of remaining members is not less than three and the requirements of sub-paragraph (2) above are satisfied.

Arrangements made by a governing body

2.—(1) Where the arrangements are those referred to in regulation 3(b), a panel is to consist of three or five members appointed by the governing body from —

- (a) persons who are eligible to be lay members; and
- (b) persons who have experience in education or who are acquainted with educational conditions in the area of the authority; or
- (c) persons who are parents of registered pupils at a school.

(2) Of the members of an appeal panel —

- (a) at least one must be a person who is eligible to be a lay member and is appointed as such; and
- (b) at least one must be a person falling within sub-paragraph (1)(b) or (1)(c) .

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph a person is eligible to be a lay member if he or she is a person without personal experience in the management of any school or the provision of education in any school

(disregarding any such experience as a governor or in any other voluntary capacity).

(4) Sufficient persons may be appointed by the governing body under this paragraph to enable two or more appeal panels to sit at the same time.

(5) No person is to be a member of an appeal panel if he or she is disqualified by virtue of sub-paragraph (6).

(6) The following persons are disqualified from membership of an appeal panel —

- (a) any member of the local education authority by whom the school is maintained or of the governing body;
- (b) any person employed by the authority or the governing body, other than a person employed as a teacher;
- (c) any person who has, or at any time has had, any connection with -
 - (i) the authority or the school, or
 - (ii) any person within paragraph (b),of a kind which might reasonably be taken to raise doubts about his or her ability to act impartially in relation to the authority or the school.

(7) A person employed as a teacher by the authority is not to be taken, by reason only of that employment, to have such a connection with the authority as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (6)(c).

(8) A person who is a teacher at a school is not to be a member of an appeal panel for the consideration of an appeal involving a question whether a child is to be admitted to that school.

(9) Where, at any time after an appeal panel consisting of five members have begun to consider an appeal, any of the members —

- (a) dies; or
- (b) becomes unable through illness to continue as a member; or
- (c) becomes unable to continue as a member because doubts may reasonably be raised about his or her ability to act impartially,

the panel may continue with their consideration and determination of the appeal so long as the number of remaining members is not less than three and the requirements of sub-paragraph (2) above are satisfied.

Joint arrangements by two or more governing bodies

3.—(1) Where arrangements are those referred to in regulation 3(c), paragraph 2 of this Schedule is to apply as if—

- (a) (except in sub-paragraph (6)) any reference to the governing body were a reference to the governing bodies of both or all the schools; and
- (b) in sub-paragraph (6), any reference to the governing body of the school in question or to that school were a reference to any of those governing bodies or to any of those schools.

Joint arrangements by a local education authority and one or more governing body

4. Where the arrangements are those referred to in regulation 3(d), paragraph 1 of this Schedule is to apply in relation to those arrangements as it applies in relation to arrangements made by a local education authority such as are referred to in regulation 3(a) but as if in sub-paragraph (6) any reference to the governing body of the school in question or to that school were a reference to the governing body of any school to which the arrangements relate or to any such school.

Appeals by a governing body under section 95

5.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where the arrangements are those referred to in regulation 3(e), paragraph 1 of this Schedule is to have effect as it has effect where the arrangements are those referred to in regulation 3 (a).

(2) A person is not to be a member of an appeal panel for the consideration of an appeal under section 95(2) if he or she has to any extent been involved in any previous consideration of the question whether the child in question should or should not be reinstated at any school from which he or she has at any time been permanently excluded, or in any previous appeal relating to the child under section 95(2).

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 5

PROCEDURE ON APPEAL

Appeals made pursuant to section 94

1.—(1) In this paragraph “appeal” means an appeal made under the arrangements referred to in regulation 3(a) to (d).

(2) Particulars of the arrangements for making an appeal, including information containing the contact details for whichever body or bodies are responsible for those arrangements, must be set out in any document containing notification to parents of-

- (a) a decision referred to in section 94(1)(b) and (2) refusing their child admission to a school for which the parents have expressed a preference in accordance with the arrangements made under section 86(1), including any co-ordinated arrangements made in accordance with sections 89B and 89C;
- (b) a decision referred to in section 94(1)(a) as to the school at which education is to be provided for their child; or
- (c) a decision referred to in section 94(1A) or (2A) refusing permission for a child who has already been admitted to a school to enter the school’s sixth form.

(3) An appeal must be by notice in writing setting out the grounds on which it is made.

(4) An appeal panel must give the appellant an opportunity of appearing and making oral representations, and allow him or her to be accompanied by a friend or to be represented.

(5) An appeal must be heard in private except where the body or bodies by whom the arrangements under section 94 of the 1998 Act are made direct otherwise; but —

- (a) if the panel so direct, one member of the local education authority may attend, as an observer, any hearing of an appeal by an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 1;
- (b) if the panel so direct, one member of the governing body of the school in question may attend, as an observer, any hearing of an appeal by an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 of Schedule 1 (or in accordance with paragraph 2 as it

applies by virtue of paragraph 3 of that Schedule); and

- (c) one member of the Council on Tribunals may attend, as an observer, any meeting of any appeal panel at which an appeal is considered.

(6) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (5), an appeal to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 1, as it applies by virtue of paragraph 4 of that Schedule is to be treated —

- (i) as an appeal to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 1 of that Schedule if it relates to a community or voluntary controlled school, and
- (ii) as an appeal to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 2 of that Schedule, if it relates to a foundation or voluntary aided school.

(7) In the event of a disagreement between the members of an appeal panel, the appeal under consideration is to be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast and, in the case of an equality of votes, the chair of the panel is to have a second or casting vote.

(8) The decision of an appeal panel and the grounds on which it is made must be communicated by the panel in writing to —

- (a) the appellant and the local education authority; and
- (b) in the case of an appeal to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 1, (or in accordance with that paragraph as it applies by virtue of paragraph 3 of that Schedule), to the governing body by whom or on whose behalf the decision appealed against was made.

(9) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (8), an appeal to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 1, as it applies by virtue of paragraph 4 of that Schedule, is to be treated as an appeal to an appeal panel constituted in accordance with paragraph 2 of that Schedule, if it relates to a foundation or voluntary aided school.

(10) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (9), all matters relating to the procedure on appeals, including the time within which they are to be brought, are to be determined by the body or bodies by whom the arrangements under section 94 are made.

Appeals made pursuant to section 95 of the 1998 Act

2.—(1) In this paragraph “appeal” means an appeal made under the arrangements specified in regulation 3(e).

(2) Where any such decision as is mentioned in section 95(2) is made by or on behalf of the local education authority, the authority must give the governing body of the school notice in writing—

- (a) of that decision; and
- (b) of the governing body’s right to appeal against the decision in accordance with sub-paragraph (3).

(3) An appeal by the governing body against any such decision must be made not later than the fifteenth school day after the day on which they are given notice under sub-paragraph (2).

(4) An appeal must be by notice in writing setting out the grounds on which it is made.

(5) The appeal panel must meet to consider an appeal on such date as the local education authority may determine but the date so determined must not be later than the fifteenth school day after the day on which the appeal is lodged.

(6) On an appeal the panel must allow —

- (a) the local education authority and the governing body to make written representations;
- (b) an officer of the authority nominated by the authority, and a governor nominated by the governing body, to appear and make oral representations; and
- (c) the governing body to be represented.

(7) Appeals must be heard in private except when the local education authority direct otherwise; but —

- (a) if the panel so direct, one member of the local education authority may attend, as an observer, any hearing of an appeal by an appeal panel; and
- (b) one member of the Council on Tribunals may attend, as an observer, any meeting of an appeal panel at which an appeal is considered.

(8) Two or more appeals may be combined and dealt within the same proceedings if the appeal panel consider that it is expedient to do so because the issues raised by the appeals are the same or connected.

(9) In the event of a disagreement between the members of an appeal panel, the appeal under consideration is to be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast and, in the case of an equality of votes, the chair of the panel is to have a second or casting vote.

(10) The decision of an appeal panel and the grounds on which it is made must —

- (a) be communicated by the panel in writing to the local education authority and the governing body; and
- (b) be so communicated by the end of the second school day after the conclusion of the hearing of the appeal.

(11) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) to (10), all matters relating to the procedure on appeals are to be determined by the local education authority.

Annex B

REGULATORY APPRAISAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION (ADMISSION APPEALS ARRANGEMENTS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2005

1. TITLE

The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005

2. PURPOSE AND INTENDED EFFECT OF THE REGULATIONS

2.1 These Regulations are being made in order to comply with Section 50 of the Education Act 2002 (the 2002 Act), and replace the provisions previously made for admission appeal procedures in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (the 1998 Act).

2.2 The Regulations set out the required constitution of appeal panels, the duty to advertise for lay members, the procedure for receiving, hearing and determining appeals, relevant considerations in appeals, the payment of allowances and the duty to indemnify panel members.

2.3 The Commencement Order bringing Section 50 of (and Section 2 of Schedule 4 to) the 2002 Act into force in Wales is due to take effect by 31 March 2005.

3. BENEFITS

3.1 The transfer of the provisions made for admission appeal panel procedures in the 1998 Act into Regulations will allow the National Assembly to more easily adapt and amend the detailed arrangements in line with future policy development and changes in circumstance. However, it is not intended that these particular Regulations will significantly alter the procedures which are currently in place.

4. COSTS

4.1 Local Education Authorities and the Governing Bodies of Foundation and Voluntary Aided Maintained Schools incur administrative costs in the establishment and operation of appeals panels. However, as these Regulations reflect the procedures which are already in place under the current legislation, it is not anticipated that any additional costs will arise as a result of their implementation.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 For completeness, each of the local authorities being consulted is being given the opportunity to comment on this appraisal. Comments will be incorporated into a final version of the regulatory appraisal.