



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

Report by: Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

Subject: GwE Health and Safety Risk Assessments (COVID-19 – Keeping Wales Safe at Work)

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present GwE Risk Assessments (COVID-19 – Keeping Wales Safe at Work) to the Joint Committee.

2.0 Background

2.1 To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Welsh Government has introduced the Coronavirus Regulations, imposing strict restrictions. Businesses that are allowed to operate, or locations that are allowed to open, must do so safely and in a way that complies with the Coronavirus Regulations, as well as other legal obligations on employers (such as Health and Safety legislation).

2.2 GwE has a legal duty to control the risks in the workplace, including the risks from COVID-19. Enclosed are Risk Assessments for the three GwE Offices, Schools Visits and the Work Force which identify the risks, and the measures to control these new risks. It also provides a record of the action that needs to be taken.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The Risk Assessments are live documents which will be reviewed continually to ensure that the measures remain effective and to respond to the COVID-19 situation.

3.2 They will be reviewed in line with any changes in Welsh Government Regulations and all aspects noted must be in accordance with the 'Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 5) Regulations 2020' issued by Welsh Government. The current version came into force on August 17th, 2020.

3.3 At present, the Welsh Government continues to advise people to work from home unless there is a clear business need to return to the workplace. Given that the timing and nature of any further relaxation of restrictions is uncertain, the risk assessments and the actions identified will give us the capability to move quickly from one scenario to another.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the content of the Risk Assessments.

4.2 That the GwE Management Board be authorised to approve any amendments to the Risk Assessments to respond to the COVID-19 situation and to comply with the Coronavirus Regulations, WG guidance and Health and Safety legislation. This will include managing the return to offices, schools and face to face training in a safe manner.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equalities Impact

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

8.1 Consultation with GwE Staff and the GwE Management Board.

9.0 Appendices

Risk Assessment for: GwE Offices, School Visits and the Work Force.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

I note that the assessments will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the relevant regulations.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I note that part 5.1 of the report above confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report. Consequently, I have nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.