



Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

2015 anaw 3

Guidance and directions in relation to the purpose of this Act

15 Power to issue statutory guidance

- (1) The Welsh Ministers may issue guidance to a relevant authority on how the authority should exercise its functions with a view to contributing to the pursuit of the purpose of this Act (“statutory guidance”).
- (2) The statutory guidance may, amongst other things, address—
 - (a) steps an authority may take to increase awareness of, or change attitudes in relation to, gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence (for example, by designating a member of staff for that purpose or undertaking or assisting with a programme of public education);
 - (b) the commissioning by relevant authorities of specialist advice or other assistance relating to gender-based violence, domestic abuse or sexual violence;
 - (c) the circumstances in which it is appropriate for persons acting on behalf of a relevant authority to ask a person if he or she is suffering or at risk of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
 - (d) the action that is appropriate where a person acting on behalf of a relevant authority has reason to suspect that a person is suffering or at risk of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
 - (e) workplace policies to promote the well-being of employees of relevant authorities who may be affected by gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence;
 - (f) training for the members and staff of a relevant authority;
 - (g) the sharing of information between relevant authorities or by a relevant authority with another person;
 - (h) co-operation between relevant authorities or between a relevant authority and other persons.

- (3) The Welsh Ministers—
- (a) may issue statutory guidance to relevant authorities generally or to one or more particular authorities;
 - (b) may issue different statutory guidance to different relevant authorities;
 - (c) may revise or revoke statutory guidance by further guidance;
 - (d) may revoke statutory guidance by issuing a notice to the relevant authority to which it is directed.
- (4) The Welsh Ministers must ensure that statutory guidance, or a notice revoking such guidance, states—
- (a) that it is issued under this section, and
 - (b) the date on which it is to take effect.
- (5) The Welsh Ministers must arrange for statutory guidance, or a notice revoking such guidance, to be published.