

Environment Bill White Paper Consultation Summary Report

Annex 1 - Information on consultation events

The Environment Bill White Paper was published for consultation on the Welsh Government website on 23 October for a period of twelve weeks, closing on 15 January 2014. Information on the publication of the White Paper was circulated to over 1000 stakeholders through the Natural Resource Management e-bulletin, and a press notice issued by the Minister for Natural Resources and Food.

A series of engagement and consultation events were held on the White Paper, including a major conference on the wider Natural Resource Management programme, of which the Bill was a key focus. Information on the conference and regional events was circulated via the Natural Resource Management e-bulletin.

NRM Programme Conference – 25 November 2013

Over 150 key figures from a variety of sectors across Wales, the UK and Europe attended to discuss the Welsh Government's proposed approach to natural resource management. Presentations were given on the Environment Bill, and workshops held with all attendees on the proposed area-based approach. The findings of these workshops were captured using MeetingSphere technology. A feedback report was circulated to all attendees on 16 December, which included a transcript of all comments received on both the presentations on the Bill and the workshop. Feedback from the conference was extremely positive. Other workshops were held at the conference on other key Bill proposals, including payments for ecosystem services, the implementation of the area-based approach and the waste recycling proposals.

Regional Events

A series of workshops were held across Wales in which attendees from across a wide range of sectors were invited to explore, in detail, the White Paper proposals on natural resource management, particularly in relation to the area-based approach (chapter 2) and the new tools for Natural Resources Wales (chapter 3).

Location	Date	No. of attendees
Merthyr Tydfil	2 nd December 2013	Approx. 45
Aberystwyth	4 th December 2013	Approx. 30
Llandudno Junction	9 th December 2013	Approx. 40
Cardiff	10 th January 2014	12

MeetingSphere technology was used at some of the events to capture comments. A summary of the discussion was circulated to all attendees following each of the events.

Other engagement

Specific engagement sessions with sector interests were also held during the White Paper consultation. For example, the Waste proposals were discussed at the WRAP conference on 14 November, which was attended by around 50 representatives from businesses and industry. Round table discussions have also taken place with representatives such as the Council for Economic Renewal and Commerce Wales, the Wales Environmental Services Association, FSB, CBI Association and Convenience Stores, and the Wales Retail Consortium / British Retail Consortium.

Engagement with other individual organisations on the natural resource management proposals includes discussion with Dwr Cymr, NRW, WLGA, Climate Change Commission, Wildlife Trusts, CLA, National Park Authorities and CNP Cymru and the Health Protection Committee. A workshop was also held with the UK Environmental Law Association was held to discuss the key White Paper proposals in January 2014.