

**Number: WG48223**

Welsh Government

Consultation response form

Consultation on the White Paper on Ending Homelessness in Wales

Date of issue: 10 October 2023

Action required: Responses by 16 January 2024

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

Mae’r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

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# Overview

This White Paper sets out a range of proposals for changes to policy and the law, to end homelessness in Wales.

## How to respond

Please respond by completing the online form or completing this questionnaire and sending it to HomelessnessLegislationReform@gov.wales

If you intend to respond in writing, please send completed forms to:

Homelessness Prevention Legislation Team

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

When you reply, it would be useful if you confirm whether you are replying as an individual or submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation and include:

* your name
* your position (if applicable), and
* the name of organisation (if applicable).

## Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

| Data Protection |
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| The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g., a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government’s standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation.If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than 3 years. |

| Confidentiality |
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| Responses to consultations may be made public on the internet or in a report. **If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here**:[ ]  |

# Reform of the existing core homelessness legislation

## Question 1

Do you agree these proposals will lead to increased prevention and relief of homelessness?

Yes/no

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## Question 2

What are your reasons for this?

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## Question 3

Are there additional legislative proposals you think we should consider to improve the prevention and relief of homelessness?

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## Question 4

Do you agree with our proposal to abolish the priority need test?

Yes/no

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## Question 5

Do you agree with our proposal to abolish the Intentionality test?

Yes/no

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## Question 6

Do you agree with our proposal to keep the local connection test but add additional groups of people to the list of exemptions to allow for non-familial connections with communities and to better take account of the reasons why someone is unable to return to their home authority.

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## Question 7

The accompanying Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out our early consideration of the costs and benefits of these proposals. Are there any costs and benefits we have not accounted for?

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# The role of the Welsh Public Service in preventing homelessness

## Question 8

Do you agree with the proposals to apply a duty to identify, refer and co-operate on a set of relevant bodies in order to prevent homelessness?

Yes/no

 Please give your reasons

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## Question 9

Do you agree with the proposed relevant bodies, to which the duties to identify, refer and co-operate would apply? Would you add or remove any services from the list?

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## Question 10

In your view have we struck the right balance between legislative requirements and operational practice, particularly in relation to health?

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## Question 11

What practical measures will need to be in place for the proposed duties to identify, refer and co-operate to work effectively? Please consider learning and development needs, resources, staffing, location and culture.

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## Question 12

In addition to the broad duties to identify, refer and co-operate, this chapter contains proposals to provide enhanced case co-ordination for those with multiple and complex needs. To what extent will the proposals assist in preventing homelessness amongst this group?

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## Question 13

## The accompanying Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out our early consideration of the costs and benefits of these proposals. Are there any costs and benefits we have not accounted for?

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## Targeted proposals to prevent homelessness for those disproportionately affected

## Question 14

Are there other groups of people, not captured within this section, which you believe to be disproportionately impacted by homelessness and in need of additional targeted activity to prevent and relieve this homelessness (please provide evidence to support your views)?

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## Question 15

What additional legislative or policy actions could be taken to prevent or relieve homelessness for the groups captured by this White Paper?

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## Question 16

Our proposals related to children, young people and care experience seek to improve and clarify links between homelessness legislation and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Significant policy development is required to assess the practicality of this. What, in your views are the benefits and challenges of our approach and what unintended consequences should we prepare to mitigate?

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## Question 17

Do our proposals go far enough to ensure that 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness receive joint support from social services and local housing authorities? What more could be done to strengthen practice and deliver the broader corporate parenting responsibilities?

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## Question 18

Do you agree or disagree that the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 should be amended to allow 16 and 17 year olds to be able to hold occupation contracts?

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## Question 19

The accompanying Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out our early consideration of the costs and benefits of these proposals. Are there any costs and benefits we have not accounted for?

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Access to accommodation

## Question 20

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the short-term proposals to increase the suitability of accommodation? Are there additional immediate actions you believe should be taken for this purpose?

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## Question 21

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals around the allocation of social housing and management of housing waiting lists? What do you believe will be the consequences of these proposals?

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## Question 22

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for additional housing options for discharge of the main homelessness duty? What do you foresee as the possible consequences (intended or unintended) of this proposal?

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## Question 23

The accompanying Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out our early consideration of the costs and benefits of these proposals in relation to access to housing. Are there any costs and benefits we have not accounted for?

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Implementation

## Question 24

To what extent do you think the proposals outlined above will support the implementation and enforcement of the proposed reforms?

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## Question 25

What other levers/functions/mechanisms could be used to hold local housing authorities and other public bodies accountable for their role in achieving homelessness prevention?

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## Question 26

The accompanying Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out our early consideration of the costs and benefits of these proposals. Are there any costs and benefits we have not accounted for?

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## Question 27

What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of the proposed reforms in this White Paper on the Welsh language?  We are particularly interested in any likely effects on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.

* Do you think that there are opportunities to promote any positive effects?
* Do you think that there are opportunities to mitigate any adverse effects?

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## Question 28

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

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Your name:

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Organisation (if applicable):

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Contact details:

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