



# Health Impact Assessments

We want to know what you think about a new law coming to Wales

Please send this form back to us by 29 March 2024



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of 'Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations. Considering draft regulations to mandate the use of Health Impact Assessments'.

December 2023

# How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 37**.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

This is a **survey**. Please read through this booklet and answer the **questions**. You can fill it in **online** or **print** it out and email it to:

**E-mail:** [healthimpactassessment@gov.wales](mailto:healthimpactassessment@gov.wales)

**Or you can post it to:**

Health Inequalities and Healthy Communities  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Please send it to us by: **29 March 2024**



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# What this survey is about



People across Wales have different levels of health.



People often experience health issues because of where they live and how much money they have. For example, if they are from a poorer area of Wales.



We want to make sure people are treated fairly when it comes to health and that they have good chances to be healthy.



We are bringing a new law to Wales called the **Health Impact Assessment (Wales) Regulations**.



We want to know what people think about **public bodies** carrying out **health impact assessments (HIAs)** in Wales.



**Public bodies** are organisations that run services for the public. For example, health services, local councils, fire services.



A **health impact assessment** means thinking about how something could affect people's health.

# More about health in Wales



We want to make sure people in Wales are treated fairly when it comes to their health.



It means giving people good health care and the support they need to live a healthy life.



There are a number of things that can affect our health. For example:

- How healthy our food is
- How much education we have
- How much money we have



People who live in the poorest areas of Wales are much more likely to experience health issues than those who do not.



Also, people from these areas are more likely to die at a younger age.



This is not fair. As many of these health issues can be avoided.



We also know that treating these health issues costs a lot of money to the NHS.



At the moment, **health impact assessments** are only carried out in some situations.





The law called the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act** says **public bodies** must carry out **sustainable development**.



**Sustainable development** means thinking about how long something will last. Making sure our actions and decisions help people now and in future.



It also means thinking about **well-being** for the people of Wales now and in the future.



**Public bodies** have to tell people what their **well-being goals** are.



**Well-being** means a person is happy, healthy, and is comfortable with their life and what they do.

The **well-being goals** come from the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The **well-being goals** are a list of things that will help make Wales a better place to live in the future.



# More about the law



There are new **draft regulations** which will be part of a law that came out in 2017 called the **Public Health (Wales) Act**.



**Regulations** are rules to make sure things happen in the best way possible.



Part of the **Public Health (Wales) Act** is about **health impact assessments**.



**Health impact assessments** are a way of thinking about the effects something will have on physical health and mental health.



Not just now, but in the future.



The **draft regulations** talk about what a **public body** needs to do and how to go about doing a **health impact assessment**.



They explain what **public bodies** need to think about and how to stop any bad effects on health.

**Public bodies** will need to understand people and think about things like:



- Where someone lives.



- How much money they have.

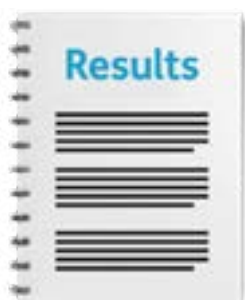


- If people have **protected characteristics**.

**Protected characteristics** are areas of life where people are often treated unfairly. For example, because of disability, age, gender, race.



As these kinds of things all affect the health chances someone has.



A **public body** must also publish the results of its **health impact assessment**.

## Question 1

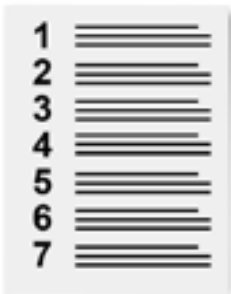


Do you think it is important for **public bodies** to have to think about the bigger issues that can affect health?

For example, living in a poor community. Please write your answer here:



In the **Public Health Wales Act** it lists all the organisations that are called a **public body**.



This is the same list of **public bodies** which fall under another law called the **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act**.



We are thinking of also including organisations like **Transport for Wales, Social Care Wales** and others in this list.

## Question 2



Should the longer list of **public bodies** be asked to carry out **health impact assessments** as well? Please write your answer here.

## When would the new regulations apply?



**Public bodies** will have to carry out **health impact assessments** when they are making big decisions.



For example:

- with their long-term goals and plans
- changes to the development of public services
- big plans about money.



They will not need to do a **health impact assessment** for day-to-day plans or smaller decisions.



### Question 3



Do you agree that **public bodies** should carry out **health impact assessments** when making big decisions. Like those above? Please write your answer here.

## Question 4



**Are there any other situations where you think they should carry them out? Please write your answer here.**

## Question 5



**Do you think there are any other situations where they should not have to carry them out? Please write your answer here.**

# How health impact assessments should be carried out



We think it is a good idea to allow **public bodies** to decide how to carry them out. For example, as part of other **assessments**.

But, we think there should be some rules in place to follow. Some of them are to:



- Get the views of people who provide the services.



- Get the views of anyone who could be affected.



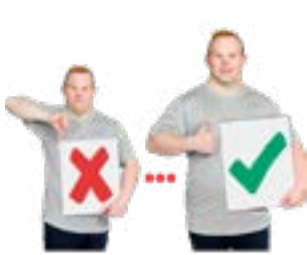
- Keep record of the **health impact assessment**.



- Include all important information.



- Talk about the effects on both physical and mental health.



The **public body** will need to think about how they make sure health is improved. And health problems are reduced.



This includes thinking about the bigger issues that can affect health. Like where someone lives and if they have **protected characteristics**.

## Question 6



Do you agree with us saying **public bodies** need to follow these minimum rules when doing a **health impact assessment**? Please write your answer here.

## Question 7



**Do you think there may be any negative effects of bringing out these regulations? Please write your answer here.**



# The role of Public Health Wales



**Public Health Wales** has a department called the **Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit**. They support the making of **health impact assessments**.



This department has run for 20 years and is thought of well around the world.



**Public bodies** do not have to follow what they say, but it could help them to carry out the **assessments** in the best ways.

## Question 9



How much do you think guidelines could support **public bodies**? Please write your answer here.

## Question 10



**If you think guidelines are needed, what should be included? Please write your answer here.**

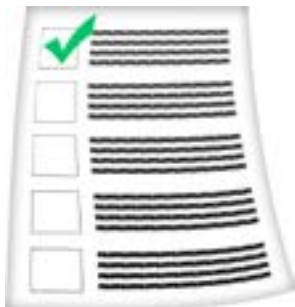
# Publishing health impact assessments



**Public Bodies** will need to publish their **health impact assessments**. For example, on their website.



They might publish them as part of other **impact assessments** or on their own.



## Question 11

**Do you think giving public bodies some options on how they can publish will be helpful to them? Please write your answer here.**

## Question 12



**Do you have any ideas for how, when, and where they should be published? Please write your ideas here.**

## Using health impact assessments



Using **health impact assessments** will help **public bodies** think about the effects their work has on the people of Wales.



They can be used in an ongoing way. They can be checked and reviewed.



They work best when they involve other people and organisations. This is because different views are important.

## Question 13



Is there any other support or information **public bodies** will need to help them carry out **health impact assessments**? Please write your answer here.





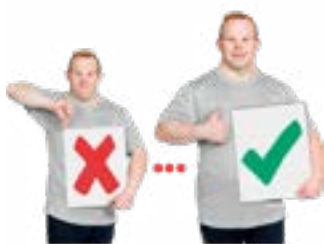
## Question 14

**Do you think our plans would affect the Welsh language at all?**

Yes

No

**How can we make sure the Welsh language would be treated fairly to the English language?  
Please write your ideas here.**



## Question 15

**Do you think these plans could give any chances to improve the use of the Welsh language? Please tell us what you think.**

## Question 16



**Is there anything else you would like to add that has not been covered already? Please write your answer here.**

# More about you



**Your name:**



**Organisation (if relevant):**



**Email:**



**Phone number:**



**Your address:**



Are you answering as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation? (select only one option)

Individual

On behalf of an organisation

Other, please say what here:



**We will be publishing a report about people's answers. If you want your answers to stay private, please tick this box.**

# How we use your information



We use your information by following a law called **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)**



Our staff will be able to see your answers. Sometimes we ask other organisations to help us understand people's answers. So, they may see your information too.



We normally publish a report showing the kinds of things people said.



Sometimes this means people's personal details are included. Please tell us if you do not want your personal information included.



If you are in our report the information could be available for a long time.



But information that is not published is only kept for 3 years.



The data protection laws give you the right to:

- Know what information we have about you and how you can see it.
- Make us change any mistakes in the information about you.
- Ask us not to use the information in some cases.
- Ask us to delete the information we have about you in some cases.
- Move the information about you somewhere else in some cases.
- Complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.

If you would like to know more about how your information is kept and used please contact us at:



Data Protection Officer  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF  
CF10 3NQ



**Email:** [Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)



You can also contact the **Information Commissioner's Office:**

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF



**Phone:** 01625 545745 or 0303 123 1113



**Website:** [ico.org.uk](http://ico.org.uk)



# Hard words

## Health Impact Assessment

A health impact assessment means thinking about how something could affect people's health.

## Protected characteristics

These are areas of life where people are often treated unfairly. For example, because of disability, age, gender, race.

## Public bodies

These are organisations that run services for the public. For example, health services, local councils, fire services.

## Sustainable development

This means thinking about how long something will last. Making sure our actions and decisions help people now and in future.

## Well-being

Well-being means a person is happy, healthy, and is comfortable with their life and what they do.

## Well-being goals

The well-being goals come from the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The well-being goals are a list of things that will help make Wales a better place to live in the future.