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Welsh Government

Securing a Sustainable Future

Environmental Principles, Governance and Biodiversity targets for a Greener Wales

Summary of Responses to Question GB13;

'The Welsh Government proposes that the governance body should set out how it intends to co-operate with the organisations specified, including how they will avoid duplication and overlap when exercising their functions? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?'

Date of issue: July 2024



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This document is also available in Welsh: [hyperlink](#)



Background

1. Due to an administrative error, this question was not present in the consultation response form. To address this, we directly contacted all consultation respondents following the consultation closure date and highlighted the error. We provided all respondents with the additional question and an additional two weeks to provide a response.
2. The document provides a summary of the responses received. The Welsh Government's response to this summary will be included within the overall policy response to the consultation.

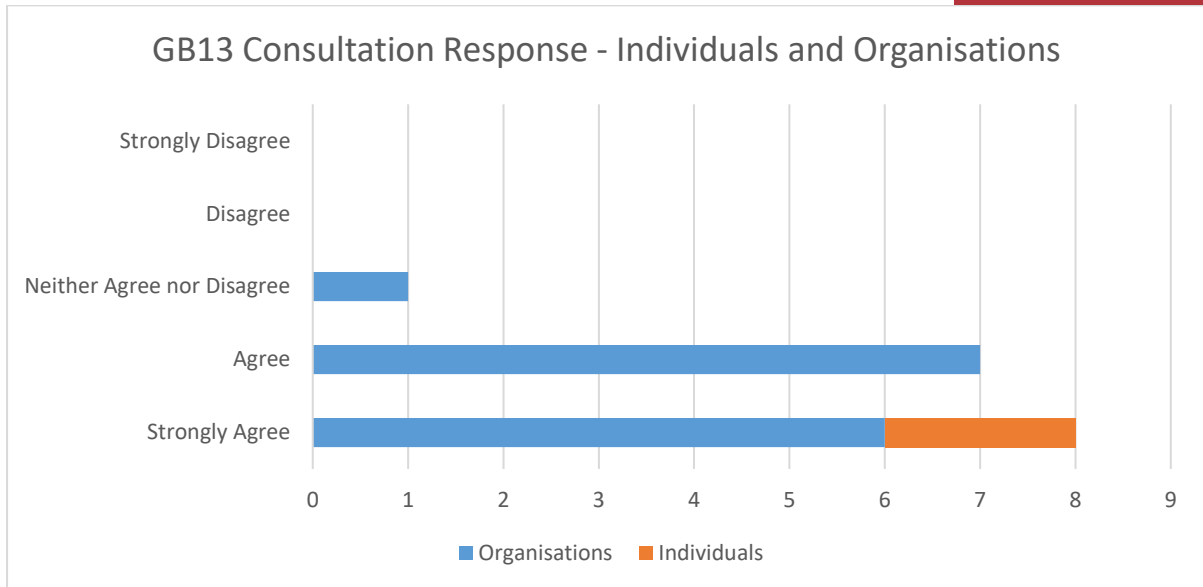
Analysis of responses to GB13

GB13: The Welsh Government proposes that the governance body should set out how it intends to co-operate with the organisations specified, including how they will avoid duplication and overlap when exercising their functions? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?

Quantitative Analysis: Organisational and individual responses

3. The response received 16 responses in total. 14 from Organisations and 2 from individuals
4. 8 respondents strongly agree with the proposals, 7 agreed and 1 response neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal.

Figure 1 GB13: The Welsh Government proposes that the governance body should set out how it intends to co-operate with the organisations specified, including how they will avoid duplication and overlap when exercising their functions? To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?



Qualitative Analysis: Individual and Organisational Responses

5. Most responses from individuals and organisations considered partnership working essential to ensure that both the public and businesses understand the role and functions of the new body.
6. Many responses recognised the overlap with other, similar organisations – such as the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales – and endorsed clear, public guidance which articulates the role of the governance body in relation to those organisations.
7. One organisation suggested further consideration should be given as to whether some responsibilities should transfer from existing bodies to the new governance body entirely where potential conflicts of interest appear.
8. Concern was expressed around the impact on public authority's resources, with particular attention around the potential for duplication, overlap and inefficient use of already limited resource. A regulator highlighted that “partnership working and co-producing products can lead to significantly improved outcomes, however the boundaries and split of responsibilities need to be clear to avoid duplication.” Other responses stressed that the governance body should fit into this framework efficiently and recognise the need to avoid generating an abundance of reporting that would reduce capacity to do work on the ground for nature recovery. In relation to this, it was suggested the governance body should be cognisant of existing reporting and planning requirements of those authorities, with the view to align and work with existing processes where possible to make the most impact.



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9. One organisation highlighted that, in addition to establishing ways of working with the organisations listed, public authorities should also be required to co-operate with the Governance Body to enable an efficient use of resources for all parties and to facilitate swift resolution. They note, in particular, the duties in UK and Scottish legislation which require public authorities to give “such reasonable assistance as it requests (including the provision of information)”.
10. Two respondents considered that the governance body should not be established as a separate entity and instead folded into existing organisations, such as the Office of Environmental Protection (OEP) or Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
11. It was also noted that it will be important for the governance body to work closely with the OEP, especially on cross border issues (such as water quality and quantity, air quality and biodiversity) or where there is shared legislation requiring a common interpretation.