



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Welsh Government  
Consultation – summary of response

# **Consultation on draft statutory guidance to be published under the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023**

23 March 2026

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

## **Overview**

This document provides a summary of responses to the consultation on the draft statutory guidance to be published under the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 and the Welsh Government's response.

## **Action Required**

This document is for information only.

## **Further information and related documents**

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

## **Contact details**

For further information:

Corporate Services and Inspectorates  
Commercial Procurement Division  
Procurement Legislation Team  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Email: [sociallyresponsiblepublicprocurementconsultation@gov.wales](mailto:sociallyresponsiblepublicprocurementconsultation@gov.wales)

## **Additional copies**

This summary of response and copies of all the consultation documentation are published in electronic form only and can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website.

Link to the consultation documentation: [Consultation on draft statutory guidance to be published under the Social Partnership and Public Procurement \(Wales\) Act 2023](#)

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## **Introduction and consultation process**

The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 (“SPPP Act”) requires all public bodies listed in Schedule 1 (contracting authorities) to carry out public procurement in a way that improves economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being.

Section 43 of the SPPP Act provides that Welsh Ministers may issue guidance about the operation of Part 3 (Socially Responsible Procurement). The draft statutory guidance consulted upon covered the following areas:

- Socially Responsible Procurement
- Setting and Meeting Socially Responsible Procurement Objectives
- Notifications – Works and Workforce Clauses
- Procurement Strategies
- Annual Socially Responsible Procurement Reports
- Contracts Registers
- Procurement Investigations

Guidance relating to the Public Services Outsourcing and Workforce Code and the Social Public Workforce Clauses, as well as Social Public Works Clauses, had been subject to separate consultations and were therefore not included within the scope of this consultation.

The consultation sought views on whether the statutory guidance meets the requirements set out in the legislation. It also invited feedback on the potential impact on the Welsh language and opportunities to promote positive effects.

The Welsh Government received 27 responses to the consultation. An additional two responses were received which were not in the format of the consultation, but their comments have been considered throughout. The responses have informed the finalisation of the statutory guidance.

The Welsh Government welcomes the responses to the consultation and would like to thank all those who took the time to respond.

## **Consultation responses and Welsh Government response**

The consultation was split into mandatory questions and follow up questions asking for additional information where the respondent had disagreed or strongly disagreed to each question. In addition, there were three questions relating to the Welsh language.

### **1. Socially responsible procurement statutory guidance**

1a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for Socially Responsible Procurement has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

1b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 1a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was positive, with 16 out of 27 responses that strongly agreed or agreed to the question.

Eight respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Two respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and one left the answer blank.

18 comments were received.

Several responses welcomed the alignment of the duty and this guidance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the WFG Act) and others noted that much of what it contains is already in place in their organisations. One respondent felt that the alignment with the WFG Act could be emphasised further, for example by changing the word “consult” to “involve” and by better reflecting the ways of working, for example referring to integration between the guidance documents and other relevant documents, and emphasising the importance of long-term thinking. It was suggested that links could be provided to other relevant material.

The examples in the document were welcomed, and some respondents requested more of these. There were suggestions for additional content, for example reference to deforestation and Fair Trade standards, more on support for local and rural economies, particularly in relation to food, and a request to strengthen the requirement about due diligence on human rights.

Responses also requested that the language such as “reasonable steps” and “should consider” should be replaced with language that makes obligations clearer, and that trade unions should be included alongside references to stakeholders.

Some respondents are concerned about whether this guidance can be applied proportionately, particularly when requirements are placed on small businesses and

third sector organisations. Several of the responses noted the importance of monitoring, enforcement and support for implementation. One response expressed dissatisfaction that the guidance has not been finalised sooner, given how soon this legislation is to be brought into force.

### **Welsh Government response**

The suggested amendments have been considered and will result in several changes and additions, for example changing “consult” to “involve” where appropriate, promoting more integration by providing more cross-references to other relevant documents, and including references to global standards where appropriate and some additions to the list of outcomes. Specific reference to contracting with third sector organisations will be included. As this guidance is designed to apply to all contracts whether large or small, mandatory due diligence on human rights is likely to be a disproportionate requirement for small contracts. However, reference to the importance of treating the UN Guiding Principles as a core element of socially responsible procurement will be included in a footnote.

however,

Requests for amendments to strengthen obligations in the guidance have been considered. However, the language used in guidance has been selected to correspond with that used in the Act.

Whilst there may be room to include more examples as requested, it is important that the guidance does not become too long and complex. Consideration will be given to how further examples and case studies might be provided in addition to this guidance. A list of expressions and definitions throughout the SPPP Act and regulations will also be published as an information document.

The Welsh Government is committed to providing support and training to Contracting Authorities, and guidance for suppliers, and to monitoring the implementation of this duty. The annual reporting process and the procurement sub-group of the Social Partnership will both form important parts of this ongoing review.

## **2. Setting and meeting socially responsible procurement objectives statutory guidance**

2a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for Setting and meeting Socially Responsible Procurement Objectives has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

2b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 2a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was positive, with 17 out of 27 responses that strongly agreed or agreed to the question.

Four respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Five respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and one left the answer blank.

18 comments were received.

Whilst respondents were generally content with the practical advice in this guidance document, some felt it needed to be clearer about how objective-setting will work for contracting authorities that engage in collaborative procurement. One respondent felt that 7-10 objectives may be too many and questioned how objectives might link to the well-being goals. Concerns were raised about the practicalities of collecting evidence on meeting objectives when contract management is devolved. One respondent felt that there are more related documents that should be considered when setting objectives and that the word “involve” should be used more. Another pointed out that “consult” can have a precise meaning for some public bodies. It was also suggested that the reference to objectives applying for a three-to-ten-year period needs to be amended to emphasise the need to consider impacts over a much longer term. Welsh Government was asked to consider developing something similar to another devolved government’s tool to assist with considering well-being at the planning stage of procurement.

Some responses requested clearer language on engagement with trade unions when setting objectives. Some further amendments to wording were also suggested for example changing “ensure” to “reduce” in reference to addressing risks of human rights abuse etc. The importance of human rights due diligence, and global responsibility, was raised in response to this question. Several respondents mentioned the value of co-production - involving service providers and service users in setting objectives.

Greater clarity was sought on how objectives might apply to all procurement, given that, particularly for low-value procurement, not all published objectives may be relevant in every case. It was also suggested that Welsh Government might consider publishing Contracting Authorities’ organisational objectives all in one place.

### **Welsh Government response**

All suggested amendments to this guidance document have been considered and this will result in several changes and additions to the guidance. The Welsh Government agrees that it would be better to suggest 4-7 objectives rather than 7-10, based on the experience of effective objective-setting under the WFG Act, and that the word “involve” will replace “consult” where appropriate. The link between Objectives and the well-being goals is clear in the Act, and so this must be reinforced in guidance. The guidance will also be updated to strengthen the “involve” way of working, the requirement to engage with trade unions, and to ensure a focus on the longer-term. Options for improving clarity about how objectives apply to low-value contracts will be taken, including by linking to other sections of the guidance, and

Welsh Government will consider the merits of collating Contracting Authorities' objectives once they have been published.

Once the Act is fully in force, Welsh Government will review the tool suggested in several responses, and other opportunities to build on Welsh tools such as the Sustainability Risk Assessment, in order to improve support for Contracting Authorities in setting objectives and pursuing them through their procurement.

### **3. Notifications – Works and Workforce Clauses statutory guidance**

3a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for Notifications has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

3b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 3a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

#### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was split, with 10 out of 27 responses that strongly agreed or agreed to the question.

Nine respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Five respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and three left the answer blank.

15 comments were received.

Respondents broadly support the aims of the statutory guidance but highlight the need for clearer, more enforceable requirements, including concerns about terms like “taking reasonable steps”. Feedback points to concerns about overly flexible wording, unclear notification and reporting processes including timescales, requests for more clarity on supply-chain obligations, and concerns about significant resource and cost implications, including those relating to obligations passed through supply chains.

Respondents also call for stronger alignment with statutory duties, sector-specific clarification, and enhanced transparency. There was also a request for clarification on whether there is a requirement to include these clauses in outsourcing of health services captured under The Health Services (Provider Selection Regime) (Wales) Regulations 2025, and clarification about how far through a supply chain the obligations in the clauses should be applied. One respondent asked for more clarity on the applicability of the social public workforce clauses to insourcing and to transfer of previous outsourcing, and on call-offs from existing frameworks.

#### **Welsh Government response**

The Welsh Government has considered options for strengthening the drafting of this guidance including some further details of the notification and reporting processes and timelines, to provide as much certainty as possible for Contracting Authorities

and other parties. However, some flexibility on timings, in particular, will need to be retained for complex cases. Much of the terminology that was queried by respondents duplicates language used in the SPPP Act, for example “taking reasonable steps” (see sections 28 and 34) and cannot therefore be changed. Similarly, the SPPP Act does not set a limit for the number of tiers in a supply chain through which the obligations in these clauses is expected to apply, so such a limit cannot be introduced in guidance.

In response to the question on outsourcing of health services contracts captured under The Health Services (Provider Selection Regime) (Wales) Regulations 2025; if the contract falls into the definitions of a “public contract” and “public procurement” as defined in the SPPP Act, then the Workforce Code requirements apply, as would the notification process.

Transparency on the outcome of notifications is already provided for by the publication requirements in the Act. Contracting Authorities should include information about implementation and monitoring of these clauses, and well-being outcomes achieved as a result of them, within their Annual Reports.

Several points were raised about the Workforce Code and clauses, and the works clauses, that mirrored those raised in the consultations on the Workforce Code and the works clauses. Responses to those consultation comments have been published. This consultation and specific question relates only to the notifications process itself.

As mentioned in the response to consultation on the social public works clauses, the additional workload that is likely to result from greater due diligence in monitoring the application of these clauses, for both clients and contractors, was anticipated. Estimated costs for both clients and contractors were set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, published as part of the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) during scrutiny of the SPPP Act in 2023.

#### **4. Procurement strategies statutory guidance**

4a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for Procurement Strategies has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

4b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 4a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

#### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was positive, with 16 out of 27 responses that strongly agreed or agreed to the question.

Six respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Three respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and two left the answer blank.

18 comments were received.

Whilst several respondents felt that this guidance aligned with the SPPP Act and policy expectations, some expressed concerns that it is not sufficiently specific, for example, about consulting or involving stakeholders on the development of the strategy, achievement of Socially Responsible Procurement (SRP) Objectives, how the strategy would be published, and how the procurement strategy should be reviewed each year.

There was a request for the guidance to reflect clearer minimum standards in some areas to ensure consistency across Wales. Adding links to the other SPPP Act guidance referenced within the procurement strategies guidance was suggested.

Some respondents indicated that the duty to take all reasonable steps to achieve SRP Objectives should apply to all contracts and not only prescribed ones. Respondents suggested that there should be a requirement for clearer alignment of this guidance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) and other relevant duties, while also calling for a focus on stronger sustainability, ethical sourcing and due diligence. In particular, there were suggestions for strengthening obligations around global responsibility, and local sourcing, and including further examples in this area and for cultural well-being. Some suggestions for amending wording to bring it into line with the WFG Act were provided, such as changing “consult” to “involve”, and requiring integration of strategies with other relevant documents.

It was suggested that Contracting Authorities should be encouraged to publish SRP Objectives and procurement strategies in one document to maintain consistency between the SRP Objectives and procurement strategy.

Respondents called for wider stakeholder engagement in the development of strategies, including with specialist charities, and mandatory engagement with trade unions. Requests also included changing some terminology within the guidance from “may” to “must”.

There was concern that publication of joint strategies may weaken obligations, for example in relation to worker voice. It was also queried whether a Contracting Authority could include subsidiary companies in the procurement strategy.

Concerns were raised around the accessibility and therefore transparency of procurement strategies, and it was suggested that the strategies might be made more publicly accessible by publishing them on a central platform.

There was criticism that the late publication of final versions of the guidance has made preparation for the new requirements more difficult, particularly where there is a need for cross-department co-ordination and internal governance consideration.

## **Welsh Government response**

Many respondents agreed that the guidance aligns with the SPPP Act and the policy intent. The request for more specific guidance in some areas is acknowledged and

Welsh Government will include more detail. However, it is important that the guidance does not become too long and complex, or place disproportionate requirements on smaller organisations when developing and reviewing their strategy. Welsh Government will consider publishing further additional information documents or templates to assist.

Welsh Government will also strengthen language in the guidance on local sourcing and on engaging with trade unions and other important stakeholders when consulting on the development of their procurement strategy, and increase alignment with the WFG Act.

The guidance, however, cannot extend duties beyond what is set out in the SPPP Act itself, so can only, for example, require “all reasonable steps” to be taken to meet SRP Objectives for contracts that are prescribed. The strategy itself, however, should cover how all procurement (including lower value procurement) is carried out in a socially responsible way, and SRP Objectives apply to all procurement.

Once Contracting Authorities’ procurement strategies have been published, Welsh Government will consider options for providing easier access to them through, for example, a central platform.

## **5. Annual socially responsible procurement reports statutory guidance**

5a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for Annual Socially Responsible Procurement Reports has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

5b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 5a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was positive, with 17 out of 27 responses that strongly agreed or agreed to the question.

Four respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Three respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and three left the answer blank.

16 comments were received.

Several respondents noted that the guidance was aligned with their expectations and plans. Some focused on the data, included in regulations, to be collected from suppliers and the practicalities of collecting this information. Concerns were raised about the proportionality of what is being asked for, and how thoroughly it is to be monitored and scrutinised by Welsh Government.

One respondent questioned how reporting on organisational well-being objectives and socially responsible procurement objectives might be streamlined and aligned.

The scrutiny and monitoring arrangements were also questioned, including a request for promoting an integrated approach and learning from relevant experiences for similar pieces of legislation. In particular, questions were asked about how these annual reports will integrate with annual Well-being reports required under the WFG Act, and the role of the Future Generations Commissioner in implementation and monitoring. Another response suggested that annual reports were an opportunity to require reporting on workforce demographics.

A request for further advice and templates was also made, along with clarification about any data sought from contract management of contracts awarded in previous years, and whether this excludes contracts awarded before the SPPP Act comes into force. Respondents also asked whether options for linking the pipeline information sought in the second section with data provided under the Procurement Act 2023 could be explored to reduce duplication.

One respondent called for a clearer expectation that all seven well-being goals should be addressed in annual reports, in particular not missing “A globally responsible Wales”, and suggested some changes in wording to this effect. Another respondent asked that annual reports should include information on food origins and contribution to local economies and community benefits. Another suggested that clarification is needed on how to report cases where objectives have not been met, to include reasons and corrective actions.

### **Welsh Government response**

Annual reports do not need to include details of how a Contracting Authority is meeting its objectives for low-value procurements that are not “prescribed contracts”. The guidance will be updated to clarify this point.

Whilst consideration has been given to suggestions for including further content and examples, e.g. on global responsibility and food provenance, it is felt that additional content may be more effective in other sections of guidance, and some changes will be made. The first annual reports will not be required until after April 2027, and this provides Welsh Government with time to add further information documents, templates and support to assist Contracting Authorities in meeting their annual reporting duties. This will include consideration of how to remove as much duplicated effort on reporting for different purposes as possible and how to achieve an appropriate balance between data and case studies.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the importance of on-going scrutiny of annual reports and is committed to supporting Contracting Authorities through this process. The procurement sub-group of the Social Partnership Council is likely to be interested in annual reports as it develops its advice to Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Government also acknowledges the challenges associated with collecting supplier-level data and will continue to work with Contracting Authorities to identify practical approaches and provide support as the reporting framework embeds. Opportunities to extract Pipeline Notice data published under the Procurement Act 2023 to aid pipeline summaries under the SPPP Act will also be explored.

The information to be sought from suppliers was covered in an earlier consultation on the Regulations and is not the subject of this consultation. Whilst Contracting Authorities can choose to collect and report data on workforce demographics and pay gaps etc. it is challenging to both collect and interpret this information across a wide range of contracts of different sizes and sectors, and as such was not included as a statutory requirement in the SPPP Act and Regulations.

## **6. Contracts register statutory guidance**

6a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for the Contract Register has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

6b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 6a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was negative, with 12 out of 27 responses that disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Nine respondents strongly agreed or agreed to the question to the question.

Three respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and three left the answer blank.

18 comments were received.

There was concern that the guidance permits the withholding of information that should be presented in the contracts register. Other respondents suggested that the guidance should clarify that Contracting Authorities are not expected to publish supplier addresses where this is considered personal data, and ensure that the register does not reveal commercially sensitive information.

Some respondents raised that the Sell2Wales system lacked certain functionality, and that templates and reporting facilities in Sell2Wales required updating to reflect the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 and the SPPP Act.

Publishing the contracts register on Sell2Wales was queried, with some respondents stating that Contracting Authorities should be able to choose where they published the contracts register.

Some respondents noted that publishing the contract register is a duplication, as Contracting Authorities already have to publish contract information under the Procurement Act.

Concerns were raised over the increased administrative burden, as well as the disproportionate threshold for registrable contracts and it was suggested that the threshold should be raised.

Some respondents noted issues with contract value/data for collaborative contracts, and spend based reporting was suggested as an alternative.

Concerns were raised that the Sell2Wales guidance on the “contract register” function is not currently up to date, and also queried whether the termination notice could allow for the automatic hiding of a contract on the register via Sell2Wales.

### **Welsh Government response**

Welsh Government will explore how the administrative process might be streamlined to support concerns raised. It should be noted that the Contract Register functionality in Sell2Wales is in the process of being updated, so that the relevant Contract Details Notice (CND) data will automatically be pulled into the Contracts Register in Sell2Wales once enabled by the Contracting Authority, thereby addressing concerns around duplication. The Sell2Wales Contract Register guidance will be updated to reflect this.

Guidance will be updated to note that Contracting Authorities are not obliged to use the “contract register” function in Sell2Wales, and that they can publish their contracts register on their organisational website, as long as it is compliant with section 40 of the SPPP Act and associated Regulations.

The Sell2Wales contracts register guidance document will also be updated.

Welsh Government notes concerns raised about the CDN not allowing the separation of data on collaborative contracts, and will explore potential future solutions. Linking of the Termination Notice to remove a Contract Register entry will continue to require a manual intervention by the Contracting Authority.

Welsh Government acknowledges the concern about withholding information from being published, however the SPPP Act lists specific circumstances when this can be done, and this cannot be amended through statutory guidance.

The threshold above which contracts need to be included in the contracts register was the subject of a separate consultation on the regulations. The content of the contracts register is set in the Act and cannot be amended through statutory guidance.

## **7. Procurement investigations statutory guidance**

7a: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the policy intent for Procurement Investigations has been appropriately translated into statutory guidance?

7b: If you answered disagree or strongly disagree to Question 7a, please explain why you do not believe the statutory guidance meets the requirement.

### **Summary of responses**

Overall the response was positive, with 16 out of 27 responses that strongly agreed or agreed to the question.

Four respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to the question.

Five respondents neither agreed nor disagreed and two left the answer blank.

Nine comments were received.

Some respondents called for stronger and more consistent enforcement, with clearer penalties, firmer subcontracting requirements, and defined triggers for a risk-based investigation approach. Others sought greater transparency, consistent reporting, clarity on how feedback can be provided to Contracting Authorities informally, and clearer processes for follow-up after investigations.

Respondents requested that a confidential route for stakeholders to raise concerns where procurement practice appears inconsistent with the SPPP Act's intentions is put in place. Others requested that the guidance should also acknowledge the opportunities presented by a procurement investigation for identifying good practice and areas where further guidance and training are needed.

### **Welsh Government response**

Welsh Government is limited, in terms of what it can include in this guidance, by the need to operate within the scope of the SPPP Act and associated Regulations. Some changes to the guidance will be made however, to improve clarity and provide more practical information.

To improve transparency and support learning across the public sector, following 12 months of the Act coming into force, Welsh Government will consider whether it would be helpful to develop standardised reporting templates and, if appropriate, create a structured approach to monitoring follow-up actions arising from investigation findings. This would help identify trends, capability needs, and opportunities for targeted training.

## **8. Welsh Language**

8a: What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of the model statutory guidance 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?

8b: In your opinion, could the model statutory guidance be formulated or changed so as to:

- have positive effects or more positive effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English, or
- mitigate any negative effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?

## **Summary of responses**

The response to this question was generally positive, with most respondents saying that the statutory guidance itself was positive or neutral in its impact on opportunities to use the Welsh language and not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English. This is because Contracting Authorities are subject to Welsh language standards that affect their procurement and this guidance neither adds to nor detracts from those obligations. Respondents felt that care should be taken to apply objectives about the Welsh language proportionately, especially where obligations would fall on SMEs, because there is a risk that disproportionate requirements may deter Welsh SMEs from bidding.

Respondents suggested that more examples referencing Welsh language might be included in places throughout the guidance. One respondent requested that the social public works clauses be reviewed to see whether they could have a more positive impact on the Welsh language.

## **Welsh Government response**

The guidance on socially responsible procurement already includes an example that refers to the Welsh language. It is important that the statutory guidance is not over lengthy and for this reason examples have been kept to a minimum. In addition to the statutory guidance, Welsh Government will be considering options for providing further information documents and case studies to support Contracting Authorities as they implement the procurement duties in the SPPP Act. Opportunities will be taken to include material strengthening the obligation to consider how procurement can promote the use of the Welsh language and not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.

The social public works clauses were the subject of a separate consultation.

## **9. Welsh Language – Related Issues**

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:

## **Summary of responses**

Several further points were raised in answer to this question, and some matters raised in answer to earlier questions were repeated. One respondent requested a simpler summary document setting out the main requirements in these socially responsible procurement duties. Another requested that the principles of early engagement and proportionality be applied more thoroughly to the guidance. This is felt to be particularly important for contracts with third sector organisations.

One respondent stated that the process for collecting information about suppliers to include in annual reports is not likely to demonstrate performance over time, as it relates to anticipated spend at contract award and not actual spend. It was noted this is particularly problematic for collaborative contracts where the expected spend may not be captured. This respondent also noted that the process for collecting the information creates duplication across the public sector, with each contracting authority collecting the same information from suppliers.

### **Welsh Government response**

In addition to publishing statutory guidance Welsh Government will be offering information sharing events and working on training material to support implementation. A short summary of requirements would be helpful as part of that, and this will be considered.

The Welsh Government acknowledges the duplication and challenges in the process that is being established for collecting well-being information from suppliers. These were the subject of an earlier consultation, although they do relate to the guidance on annual reports. There is currently no mandatory system for recording actual expenditure with suppliers in place across the public sector, meaning that it is not possible to present the data required in annual reports using actual expenditure at present.

Mechanisms for recording this information will be reviewed as various systems improvements on procurement data are made during the coming months. In the meantime, it is for each Contracting Authority (rather than the collaborative framework owner) to record the information as accurately as possible and include the information in its annual report.

### **Next steps**

The Welsh Government is grateful to everyone who took the time to respond to this consultation. As a summary document, not all the issues raised in responses will have been reflected fully, but each response has been considered carefully. It is the intention to make some changes to the Statutory Guidance as indicated, and the final drafts will be published on the Welsh Government website.

Welsh Government acknowledges the challenges caused by this guidance being published so close to the date at which the legislation is to come into force, and commits to assisting Contracting Authorities as much as possible in putting the duties into place.