



# Working together better in Wales

A new law in Wales about working better together and spending money responsibly to deliver public services



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of the '**Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill**'.

**August 2022**

# 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 25**.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

**Website:** [www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

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

**Phone:** 0300 0604400



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).

# Contents

	Page
Introduction.....	4
Why Wales needs this law.....	8
The Social Partnership Council.....	15
The Bill and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act....	16
Social Partnership Duty.....	17
Fair Work.....	18
Responsible procurement.....	19
What people told us.....	22
Why the Bill would be good for Wales.....	23
Hard words.....	25

# Introduction



This document is all about a new law we would like to bring to Wales.



It is called the **Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill**. We will call it the **Bill** for short in this document.



The **Bill** is about organisations working together in Wales to deliver **public services**.



**Public services** are important services everyone needs, like healthcare, transport, schools and rubbish collection. They are overseen by government and paid for with public money.



The **Bill** is also about how **public services** spend their money to pay for goods and services.



They should be run and paid for in a fair and responsible way.



They should help improve peoples' lives.



Deciding who will deliver **public services** should be done in a fair way. And think about the effect it has on people's well-being.

### The Bill wants:



- To set up a group called the **Social Partnership Council**.



- Welsh Ministers to talk with partners on the **Social Partnership Council** when meeting their well-being goals.



- **Public bodies** to talk to their workers and aim to agree their well-being goals and how they will achieve them.



**Public bodies** are organisations that run **public services**. For example, the NHS or the local council.



- **Public bodies** to make sure they are responsible about **procurement**.



**Procurement** means paying other organisations to provide things that you need. For example, it could be a local council paying for office furniture, or for a business to run social care services.



- **Public bodies** to write a plan for **procurement**.



- **Public bodies** to check that organisations they work with meet their goals and work responsibly.



- **Public bodies** and Welsh Ministers to report on their work to do with **procurement**.



# Why Wales needs this law



We want to make sure that work done for and paid for by the public is done in a fair and responsible way.



The **Bill** will work well with other laws in Wales. For example:

- the **Equality Act 2010**
- and the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.

The **Bill** is also about:

- good **social partnership**



**Social partnership** means workers and employers working together to solve problems



- setting goals on how to work well together





- and how to help improve the well-being of Wales.



Working together can help make sure everyone can get involved and have a say.



The coronavirus pandemic has been very difficult and challenging. It has also given organisations a chance to work better together.



A **Social Partnership Council** would give advice to the Welsh Ministers about the best ways **social partnerships** can work.



It would also have a website with useful information on.



It is really important for workers in **public services** to be part of this work. Not just the people in charge.



Workers have a good understanding of what services are really like. They should be more involved in making decisions.



This already happens in many countries in Europe.



We want Wales to be a **Fair Work** nation.

**Fair Work** is work which:

- meets the rights of workers
- supports their well-being
- and gives them a say.

This means our workplaces would offer workers things like:



- Opportunities for training and development in work.



- The ability to have a say and be listened to.



- More security of pay and working hours – this means workers are not likely to lose their pay or hours.



These things are important for making Wales fair and equal.



We can help to make changes in some workforces, but not others.



For example, we have less of a say over:

- the workforces in private businesses



- and the workforces that are run by UK Government.



We have a say about jobs that are overseen by the Welsh Government. Many **public service** jobs are overseen by us.



**Procurement** is a really important part of making sure we have good **public services**.



**Procurement** must be done in a careful and responsible way.

We must think about how the way we buy and organise services, which affects things like:



- our communities



- our environment



- and the **economy**.

The **economy** is about how a country uses its money, land and people to make, use, buy and sell goods and services.



For example, we can try to make sure that the money we spend helps our communities and our environment.

There are lots of ways we could improve **procurement**. For example:



- We need to make sure organisations are **not cutting corners** when they are buying things and delivering their services. The cheapest things are not always the best.



- We need to make sure they are not causing damage to things like our communities and environment.



- We need to improve how we collect information. And we need reports on how organisations are acting responsibly.

# The Social Partnership Council



The **Social Partnership Council** is a group made up of government, employers, and workers. They will give advice to Welsh Ministers on different issues.



The workers on the Social Partnership Council will mostly be represented by someone from a **trade union**.

A **trade union** is a group who try and protect the rights of workers.



The **Social Partnership Council** would be a national council for all of Wales.



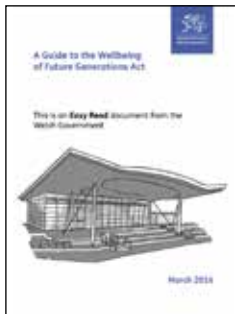
The **Social Partnership Council** would be chaired by the First Minister of Wales.



It would give information and advice about the things in the **Bill**.



# The Bill and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act



The **Bill** has a lot in common with the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.



The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** looks at the well-being of Wales in different areas, like:

- The **economy**
- The environment
- The future of Wales



There is a list of well-being goals in the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.



**Public bodies** have to work towards achieving these goals. And they must set their own well-being goals.

# Social Partnership Duty



**Public bodies** would report to the **Social Partnership Council** every year.



They will report on how they have worked in **social partnership** when setting and making decisions about meeting their well-being goals.



Welsh Ministers will need to talk to the **Social Partnership Council** about their well-being goals, too.

# Fair Work



In 2019, a report was written for us by the **Fair Work Commission**. It is called the **Fair Work Wales** report.



It was about the well-being of workers.



We want to make sure employers look after the well-being of their workers.



For example, by making sure workers are paid fairly.

# Responsible procurement



Around £7 billion pounds is spent in Wales on services and goods through **procurement**.



The UK Government is also making a new law about **procurement** that Wales will also have to follow. It is called the **Procurement Reform Bill**.



The **Procurement Reform Bill** is more to do with the process that has to be followed in public **procurement**.



The **Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill** is more to do with doing **procurement** in a responsible way.



The **Community Benefits toolkit** is an example of responsible **procurement** in Wales.



It looks at how communities in Wales can benefit from **procurement**. For example, through creating new jobs.



**Fair work** has also been an important goal in **procurement** in Wales over the past few years.



**Public bodies** and organisations involved in **procurement** will need to show how they make decisions that support these areas of Welsh life:



- Social – how we all live, work and enjoy life together



- **Economy**



- Environment



- Culture – this is to do with our ideas, traditions and ways of living



The **Bill** also says that a **procurement strategy** is needed. A **strategy** is a big plan, it will say what must be done for **procurement** to run well.



This will help make sure **public bodies** work in the same ways when it comes to **procurement**.

# What people told us

We asked organisations and people to give us their views about the **Bill**. This is what they thought:



- Many people thought this new law is important.



- A number of people thought more **public bodies** should have to follow the law.



- There was a lot of support for the ideas about **fair work**.



- There was support for having a **Social Partnership Council**. But some people thought it would be important to get more people involved.



# Why the Bill would be good for Wales

Here are some of the main things the **Bill** would help achieve:



- A **Social Partnership Council** would help give good advice to Welsh Ministers.



- It would help to improve **public services** and well-being in Wales.



- The **Council** would provide leadership across Wales by providing a good example.



- Workers would be more involved in setting well-being goals.



- It would help **public bodies** act responsibly.



- It would help **public bodies** think more about the importance of fair work.

# Hard words

## Economy

The economy is about how a country uses its money, land and people to make, use, buy and sell goods and services.

## Fair work

This is work which:

- meets the rights of workers
- supports their well-being
- and gives them a say.

## Procurement

Procurement means paying other organisations to provide things that you need. For example, it could be a local council paying for office furniture, or for a business to run social care services.

## Public bodies

Public bodies are organisations that deliver public services. For example, the NHS.

## Public services

Public services are important services everyone needs, like healthcare, transport, schools and rubbish collection. They are overseen by government and paid for with public money.

## Social partnership

This means employers, workers and government working together to solve common problems.

## Trade Union

This is a group who try and protect the rights of workers.