



Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill – Case Study

The Shadow Social Partnership Council (SSPC) played a key role in shaping the response to the pandemic.

It brought together an extended membership of social partners from the trade unions, devolved employers, the private sector and the Welsh commissioners to better understand the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic the SSPC met on a fortnightly basis and then in alignment with the three-week review cycle and sometimes, at very short notice, in reaction to new or emerging issues.

It provided a vital channel to share information, seek advice and involve social partners in decisions as they were being made. Areas discussed included:

- guidance on the re-opening of the retail and tourism sectors
- support for businesses
- development of the Test, Trace and Protect programme
- worker safety
- the re-opening of schools
- the COVID-19 vaccination/booster roll-out
- and the strategic approach in developing a response to post COVID-19 recovery.

Working in social partnership provided the opportunity for a mutual exchange of ideas, allowing social partners to play an active role in shaping guidance produced by the Welsh Government.

