



The Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act

The Act brings together 4 principles:



Social Partnership

Working to achieve a mutually agreed goal, to the benefit of all involved groups.



Socially Responsible Procurement

Taking action when purchasing goods, works and services, to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.



Fair Work

A wide range of potential activities undertaken by employers in agreement with the workforce, which contribute to well-being and improved public service delivery.



Sustainable Development

Doing things now in a way that takes into account the impact on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

The Act fulfils a Programme for Government commitment to place social partnership on a statutory footing in Wales. It provides for a **framework** to enhance the well-being of people in Wales by improving public services through **social partnership working, promoting fair work** and **socially responsible public procurement**.

Main provisions of the legislation

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| <p>The establishment of a statutory Social Partnership Council</p> | <p>This tripartite statutory advisory body, will be a national cross-sector forum, chaired by the First Minister and with representation from a range of social partners representing employers and workers through trade unions.</p> |
| <p>A statutory duty on certain public bodies</p> | <p>To seek consensus or compromise with their recognised trade unions, or where there is no recognised trade union other representatives of their staff, when setting their well-being objectives and delivering on those objectives under section 3(2) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> |
| <p>A statutory duty on Welsh Ministers</p> | <p>To consult social partners, employers and worker representatives through the Social Partnership Council when making strategic decisions about the steps to take to deliver their well-being objectives under section 3(2)(b) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> |
| <p>Amendment of section 4 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p> | <p>By substituting ‘fair work’ for ‘decent work’ within the existing “A prosperous Wales” goal. This means that in designing well-being objectives that maximise the body’s contribution to the well-being goals, ‘fair work’ will now be part of the ‘A more equal Wales’ goal under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> |
| <p>A statutory duty on certain public bodies to consider socially responsible public procurement</p> | <p>To set objectives in relation to well-being goals which those bodies must take reasonable steps to meet when carrying out procurement, and to publish a procurement strategy. For ‘prescribed procurements’, bodies must take all reasonable steps to meet objectives.</p> |
| <p>Certain public bodies to carry out contract management duties</p> | <p>To ensure that socially responsible outcomes are pursued by using contract clauses which flow through whole supply chains for large construction projects. The duty also requires that these are monitored.</p> |
| <p>Reporting duties to be imposed on the public bodies and Welsh Ministers</p> | <p>Welsh Ministers and public bodies to publish annual reports on the Social Partnership Duty. Welsh Ministers and contracting authorities who have awarded prescribed contracts to publish annual reports on procurement. Welsh Ministers to lay reports before the Senedd.</p> |