



Socially Responsible Procurement: A short guide to the new legislation for senior leaders

On 25 March 2026 new rules on public procurement in Wales came into force. The procurement duties in the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 (SPPP Act) require Contracting Authorities to carry out public procurement in a way that improves social, environmental, economic and cultural well-being.

Over £10 billion is spent on public procurement in Wales each year. The SPPP Act defines public procurement as covering the whole process, from early planning through to contract management. So, the duties need to be put into practice right across organisations, and not only in procurement departments.

Contracting Authorities listed in [Schedule 1](#) of the SPPP Act will be required to:

- Set and publish socially responsible procurement Objectives and Procurement Strategies
- Consider including model clauses in all outsourcing services and major construction (above £2m) contracts and apply these throughout supply chains - notifying Welsh Ministers if they do not intend to include and apply the clauses.
- Publish Annual Reports on how they have met the Objectives they set themselves, including some well-being metrics about their suppliers.
- Publish a Contracts Register and make this available via their websites.

It is essential that the new duties are applied proportionately. Smaller suppliers and Contracting Authorities should focus on the well-being risks and opportunities that are most relevant to each procurement.

Welsh Government has published a comprehensive suite of statutory guidance on the new duties, including a Public Services Outsourcing and Workforce Code which includes model social public workforce clauses, and a set of model clauses for construction. [E-Learning modules](#) have been provided and updates have been made to the Sell2Wales service to support Contracting Authorities to comply with the legislative requirements. Further information including guidance for suppliers will be provided.





All Contracting Authorities should consider how these new duties apply across their organisations, work towards publishing their Objectives, Procurement Strategies and Contracts Registers as soon as possible, and familiarise themselves with the model clauses.

Please visit our [webpage](#) for more information.

