

Easy read



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# A more equal Wales

Making sure public bodies think about how to reduce poverty and inequality

We want to know what you think



This is an easy read version of 'Welsh Government Consultation Document: A More Equal Wales. Commencing the Socio-economic Duty'.

November 2019

# How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.

Some words may be difficult to understand. These are in **bold blue writing** and have been explained in a box beneath the word.

If any of the words are used they are shown in **normal blue writing**. You can look up what they mean in **hard words** on page 15.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means the **Welsh Government**.



**Address:** Communities Division  
Communities and Tackling Poverty  
Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ



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



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

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# What this document is about



We want your views about making sure **public bodies** think about how to reduce **poverty** and inequality when they make big decisions.



**Public bodies** are services that are run for the public. For example, the NHS, local authorities, national parks or fire service.



**Poverty** is when people do not have enough money to live well. And are not able to get good services. Like health care and education.



This is called a **socio-economic duty**.



To give your views, please answer the questions in the **Response Form**.



Please give us your views by **17 January 2020**.

# What the Minister and Chief Whip says



When the UK leaves the European Union there could be a lot of changes. People call this **Brexit**.



One of the areas we are worried about is people being treated equally and fairly.



People are often treated unfairly when they are living in **poverty**.



We want to make sure that people living in **poverty** are treated equally and fairly.



We want to check that **public bodies** that provide important services think about this carefully.



We want to make it law that they have a duty to think about these people's needs.



This has got a lot to do with a law called **The Equality Act 2010**.



It is also important to a Welsh law called **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**.



We would like to know which **public bodies** you think should obey the new duty.



Jane Hutt Assembly Member  
**Deputy Minister and Chief Whip**

# What the law says



A law called **The Equality Act 2010** is all about treating people equally.



This law said **public bodies** must make sure people are treated equally and fairly. And work to reduce **poverty**.



They must think about everyone's needs when making decisions. And about how those decisions could affect them.

# 1. What public bodies need to think about



The **Equality Act 2010** says **public bodies** must think about:

- How they can help improve life for people. And reduce inequality and **poverty** whenever they make big decisions. Big decisions are things like:
  - What is most important to them.
  - Their big plans.
  - Their rules.
  - Their goals.
  - What they spend money on.
  - The law and making sure people are treated equally.
- How people may have different experiences in life because of **poverty**. For example in:
  - their health and well-being
  - education
  - housing
  - crime.







- The ways **poverty** can affect people. For example:
  - People may not be able to buy basic things they need.
  - People may not be able to get services easily like health services or education.
  - People may find it harder to get a good job.

## 2. What public bodies should be affected?

We think **public bodies** that run services like these should have to obey this duty:



- Welsh Ministers.



- Local Authorities.



- NHS, health boards and other health services in Wales.



- Fire and Rescue.



- National Parks.



- The Welsh Revenue Authority. They deal with tax in Wales.

### 3. What public bodies should do



We would like to give **public bodies** some guidance about what they need to do.



We want to work with **public bodies** to get the guidance right.

These are the steps we think **public bodies** will need to take:



- Think about what big decisions they have to make and when.



- Think about the effects their decisions could have on people who live in **poverty**.



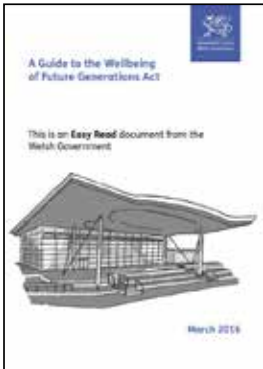
- Show how they are thinking about these peoples' needs.



- Checking the work they are doing.

## 4. How this is relevant to other laws and rules

This is relevant to other laws:



### **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** makes sure **public bodies** think about what people need.



The Act also thinks about the future of our children.



It talks a lot about what well-being means.



And it is about making sure people are treated equally. Now and in the future.



### **The Equality Act 2010**

The **Equality Act 2010** also wants to make sure **public bodies** treat people equally.



## Laws about Human Rights

Human rights laws want to make sure people are treated fairly.



That they are treated fairly in areas like work and education.



That they live in good conditions.



The laws also talk about the right to freedom that all people should have.



All of these laws affect **public bodies** and the rules they have to follow.



We think there are links with these laws and making sure people are treated equally when they are living in **poverty**.



Because living in **poverty** has a bad effect upon people's lives in lots of different ways.



We would like to know how **public bodies** think about how these different laws are linked.



This could make writing reports easier.

# Hard words

## Poverty

Poverty is when people do not have enough money to live well. And are not able to get good services. Like health care and education.

## Public bodies

Public bodies are services that are run for the public. For example, the NHS, local authorities, national parks or fire service.