

To: Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair of the Equality & Social Justice Committee  
Sent: [SeneddEquality@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEquality@senedd.wales)

Wednesday 27 July 2022

Dear Jenny

I am pleased to submit evidence to inform your committee's consideration of the Social Partnership & Public Procurement (Wales) Bill. In addition to my evidence below, I have provided evidence as part of a wider group, including Cytun and the Size of Wales.

Overall, Fair Trade Wales welcomes the Bill and its broad aims; however, we remain concerned that the general provisions relating to global responsibility generally, and fair and ethical trade specifically, are weak.

Whilst the Bill makes a welcome effort to align with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and embed the sustainable development principle within Welsh public sector procurement practices, there must be a stronger reference to the international dimension of sustainable development. Fair Trade Wales recommends that an explicit reference is made in the Bill to the 'a globally responsible Wales' well-being goal to ensure that issues of global human rights and labour rights receive equal and adequate consideration alongside the other well-being goals.

The Explanatory Memorandum highlights some of the historical work in Wales to progress ethical procurement. Fair Trade Wales would see this Bill as the opportunity to put such work on a statutory footing. Further, the Bill should compel all public bodies in Wales to make sustained progress in the field of ethical procurement. We, therefore, recommend consideration is given to the following:

1. The Bill should explicitly state an aim of promoting international fair trade and ethical procurement. It should align with existing legislation in this field but state that the policy and priority of public bodies in Wales must be to progress fair trade and ethical procurement. Such language should be included within the general aims of public procurement duties within the Bill.
2. Mindful that all public bodies under the Well-being of Future Generations (2015) Act have a duty to promote 'a globally responsible Wales' well-being goal, Clause 24(1) should be re-drafted to ensure that reference to 'area' is not limited to the immediate geographical area that a public body operates within, but rather the 'area of influence' the public body has (both domestically and internationally).
3. The Bill should include a definition of ethical and fair trade.
4. The Bill should place a duty on the Welsh Government to prepare a five-year 'Ethical & Fair Trade Procurement Plan', which should set out how Welsh Government intends to support and enable the wider public sector to progress in the area. Further, Welsh Government should report annually on its progress in delivering its 'Ethical & Fair Trade Procurement Plan'.
5. The Bill requires public bodies to produce procurement strategies. Whilst it may be implicit that such strategies should align with the Well-being of Future

Generations (Wales) Act 2015, specific references should be included within the Bill to instruct public bodies to give due consideration to ethical procurement and fair trade within such strategies.

Yours sincerely

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