

Senedd Cymru

Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Ymchwiliad: Yr Economi Sylfaenol

Cyf: FE12

Ymateb gan: ACS (Association of Convenience Stores)

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Welsh Parliament

Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

Inquiry: The Foundational Economy

Ref: FE12

Evidence from: ACS (Association of Convenience Stores)



ACS Submission – The Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee Inquiry into the Foundational Economy

ACS (the Association of Convenience Stores) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee Inquiry on the Foundational Economy. ACS represents 3,076 convenience stores in Wales, including independent stores, symbol group retailers, and multiple convenience stores. These retailers operate in a range of locations, including neighbourhoods, villages, petrol forecourts, and city centres, but our primary trading locations are secondary shopping areas close to where people live and work.

Key facts about the convenience sector:

- Convenience stores in Wales have invested £48m in their businesses over the last year, the majority of which is funded from their own reserves
- Convenience stores in Wales create over 28,000 jobs
- 87% of independent retailers in Wales engaged in some form of community activity over the last year
- The convenience sector in Wales generates over £2.9bn in total sales
- 88% of stores now accept contactless payment

More information about the convenience sector in Wales is available in ACS' Welsh Local Shop Report [here](#).

Convenience stores play a crucial role in Wales' foundational economy by serving as community hubs and local employers. These stores provide essential goods and services that local communities depend on daily. These stores not only ensure access to food, household products, and other necessities but also contribute to the overall health of the economy. In total, convenience stores in Wales generate £2.9 billion in sales and contribute £660 million in GVA, highlighting their significance in the local and national economic landscape.

Additionally, convenience stores are key employers in Wales, providing jobs to over 28,000 people, many of whom live in the communities they serve. This local employment helps to boost household incomes and supports local economies, especially in more isolated areas. Notably, 84% of these stores are independently owned, meaning the profits generated often stay within the community, fostering economic resilience and reducing the leakage of money out of local areas.

Convenience stores are more than just retailers—they are active participants in community life. With 87% of independent retailers engaging in community activities, they often act as social and support hubs for local residents. Furthermore, 36% of stores are located in isolated areas, providing essential services where other businesses are scarce, ensuring that even the most remote communities have access to the goods they need. These stores are vital in maintaining the vibrancy and sustainability of Welsh communities, especially in rural and underserved areas.

ACS is a member of the Welsh Government's Retail Forum and has supported the development of the Welsh' Government Retail Action Plan that is available [here](#).

For more information on this submission please contact ACS Public Affairs Manager:
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