



# TRAFNIDIAETH CYMRU TRANSPORT FOR WALES

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus | Public Accounts Committee

Rhwystro i weithredu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn llwyddiannus | Barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

FGA51 Transport for Wales

Nick Ramsay MS

Chair

Public Accounts Committee

Senedd

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Dear Mr Ramsay,

Thank you for inviting us to provide written evidence to the PAC Committee on the barriers to the successful Implementation of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Transport for Wales is wholly owned by the Welsh Government and delivers duties on behalf of Welsh Ministers. We have fully embraced the Well-being of Future Generations Act and are committed to its delivery. We worked closely with the Future Generations Commissioner and team to build the Well-being of Future Generations Act into the Rail Services Grant Agreement and we have worked to embed the Act into both Transport for Wales and Transport for Wales Rail Services (Keolis Amey).

We have sustainable development teams in both organisations working closely together to deliver our ambitions around the Well-being of Future Generations Act. At the advisory level, we have an experienced team who are delivering guidance, advice and knowledge within the organisation and to the team in Transport for Wales Rail Services as well as undertaking delivery of projects and reporting on our legal duties in respect of both the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Environment Act.

The team in Transport for Wales Rail Services are delivering practical actions to improve the operation of the railway through station improvements, energy reduction and improving active travel.

As an organisation that is not listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act our view on the resources and support provided to public bodies is limited. We do not receive the support provided to public bodies by the Future Generations Commissioner and we do not have access to all the resources that public bodies have to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act. But we would welcome the opportunity to be involved.



Mae Trafnidiaeth Cymru yn eiddo i  
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We are one of several Welsh organisations that, whilst not listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, has chosen to adopt the Well-being of Future Generations Act as a way to embed sustainable development. Dŵr Cymru is another example and we have been collaborating with them on their approach after they kindly wrote to us to compliment our Sustainable Development Plan in December 2019.

A representative of the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner sits on the Transport for Wales Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel includes representatives of customers, government, industry, and persons of protected characteristics. The Advisory Panel aims to provide feedback, scrutiny and advice to Transport for Wales on a wide range of topics and issues, ensuring that we are listening, liaising and receiving steer directly from Commissioners, user groups and communities across our Wales and Borders network. It is independently chaired but supported by Transport for Wales. The Advisory Panel guides our overall approach to involvement and supports our broader engagement structure, including our regional stakeholder boards and other advice groups.

We have also established a Sustainable Development Advisory Group made up of members who represent either a goal of the Well-being of Future Generations Act or one of the five Ways of Working. The Group will support us by providing advice on against each of these topics and strengthening our knowledge. They should also support us by questioning our decisions and challenging our interpretations of the Goals and Ways of Working. Our inaugural meeting is to be held in December.

## **1. Awareness and understanding of the Act and its implications.**

We have an experienced team who are supporting us to embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We have developed an overarching [Sustainable Development Plan](#) that details our delivery plans against each goal of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and supporting documents such as our Low Carbon Plan.

Transport for Wales team members are introduced to the Well-being of Future Generations Act on induction into the organisation and receive regular training on the Act and associated themes.

We publish an [annual update](#) and prepare [case studies](#) on projects and pieces of work that we have undertaken that deliver the goals and the ways of working. We have embedded sustainable development champions into each Directorate, they receive regular training on themes relating to the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

We have also included information on the Well-being of Future Generations Act and our delivery against it in our [Company Annual Report](#)

We have recently asked our champions to undertake audits of key decisions using our policy screening tool which reviews how our decision-making considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act along with other key legislation such as the Data Protection Act,

The Equalities Act and the Socio-economic Duty. This screening tool is also used to assess our organisational policies before they are implemented.

When new team members join Transport for Wales their awareness of the Well-being of Future Generations Act is generally quite low, and those who have been employed in the private sector or outside of Wales have the least knowledge, they may have heard of the Well-being of Future Generations Act but have no understanding of how to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act in their role. The Sustainable Development Team, at Transport for Wales spend time with teams explaining how the Well-being of Future Generations Act can be implemented.

There has been success in Procurement, Communications, HR and Infrastructure. The Senior Leadership Team have very good awareness of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and are champions for it.

**Example:** We have recently been handed the keys to our new office at Pontypridd. The building has achieved BREEAM Excellent and had a large solar array and water harvesting system as well as significant bike storage and EV charging points. Understanding the public perception on this move to a new office utilising public money and learning from others such as Public Health Wales and Swansea Council we undertook a sustainable procurement of our office furniture with support from WRAP Cymru. As a result of this sustainable procurement project we created an internal cross-directorate Team made up of colleagues in Procurement, Sustainable Development, Commercial, Communications and Corporate Services and we worked with our partners Rype Office and Merthyr Institute for the Blind to achieve the following:

- 32% of the furniture in the office is reused from TfW
- 44% of the furniture is reused from other organisations
- 3% of the furniture has been handmade in Pentre by employees of Merthyr Institute for the Blind, all staff have been paid the Real Living Wage
- 21% of the furniture is new of which 14% has been locally sourced
- This project has saved 84,000 kgs carbon and 31,000 kgs of furniture we have also saved 2,500kgs carbon by using recycled paint to paint the office interior.

Some of our key stakeholders and delivery partners have evidenced to us that they have low awareness or understanding of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, this is a concern to us as it means that we have conflicts in our approach when working with our partners and our supply chain. The reason for this lack of awareness is that the Well-being of Future Generations Act is a duty only on public bodies and unless organisations have contracts in place with public bodies then they may not have been exposed to the legislation.

We have worked closely with Business Wales to offer support to our supply chain to raise awareness of our requirements under the Act we have also held Supplier Days, attended events such as Procurex and held webinars with our supply chain to raise awareness of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and our duty. We have also presented our approach to embedding sustainable development in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act to organisations such as the Major Projects Association and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

**Example:** We have recently been working on the development of a more flexible approach to working because of the pandemic, we have had presentations from the Future Generations Commissioners Office and United Welsh Housing. Simple Change #25 is to have a flexible working policy but there is no case study on implementation and no list of other organisations that are implementing the Simple Change, this information would have supported us to deliver the Simple Change as opposed to having several organisations seeking this kind of support.

In terms of implementation, we have found that some organisations who know of the Well-being of Future Generations Act are unsure of how to deliver it in practice. This could be linked back to the fact that the Well-being of Future Generations Act is a duty on the public sector and therefore the tools and resources that are available to the public bodies whilst available thought the Commissions website are not well known outside of the public sector. We have utilised the ‘Art of The Possible’ guidance to develop our own bespoke version of the ‘Simple Changes’ for team members.

There is no clear reporting mechanism for the ‘Simple Changes’ guidance and no list of organisations that have adopted them, some case studies are available on the ‘Simple Changes’ section of the website but more examples and the list of organisations adopting the ‘Simple Changes’ would create more opportunity for collaboration.

As a result of recent communications with Natural Resources Wales in North Wales we have been invited to join the first joint Flintshire and Wrexham PSB Environment Group meeting. We would welcome the opportunity to assist in the delivery of Local Well-being Plans.

**2. The resources available to public bodies to implement the Act and how effectively they have been deployed.**

We are aware of some of the resources that have been made available to public bodies listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and we have referenced the ‘Simple Changes’ resources above. We are aware of the ‘Art of the Possible’ and the ‘Journey checkers’. There was significant communication from the Future Generations

Commissioners Office around the time of the release of the 'Art of the Possible', so we are aware of the resource. We have also used The People's Platform, and following a presentation by the Future Generations Commissioner on the "SenseMaker" survey, used both to gather, engage and steer information for our transport planning.

### **3. Support provided to public bodies by the Future Generations Commissioner.**

We recognise the Well-being of Future Generations Act and we would welcome the opportunity to be directly listed as a public body by the Act. We are aware of events that are held publicly and some of the resources that are available to public bodies as detailed above. A member of the Future Generations office sits on the TfW Advisory Panel and the Commissioner has provided advice to our Board and Chief Executive. We have attended a session this year on the 'Three Horizons' approach championed by the Office. We found the session useful, with good opportunities on the day for networking with a range of cross-sector organisations.

### **4. The leadership role of the Welsh Government.**

We already recognise, support, and implement the recommendations within the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and we would welcome the opportunity to further work with the Welsh Government and the office of the Future Generations Commissioner to further implement their recommendations into our work.

### **5. Any other barriers to successful implementation of the Act (e.g. Brexit, COVID, etc.).**

A barrier that could develop post Covid-19 is one of an economic damage. Whilst a severe economic downturn could detract from the climate emergency and from implementation of the Act, during the 2008 economic crisis, we saw a positive impact to the environment. It was the only year in which Earth Overshoot Day was not earlier than in previous years and 2020 has also seen much better results.

Welsh Government has charged Sir David Henshaw to lead on the green recovery project and we are in communication with the team to pick up some of the suggestions for green recovery.

The recovery from Covid-19 should be an opportunity to build a better future, a reset. TfW continues to develop its vision for better public transport in Wales and also recognises, in light of covid-19, the opportunity to create and engage even further to deliver a public transport network Wales can be proud of.

### **6. How to ensure that the Act is implemented successfully in the future.**

At present there is limited guidance to organisations that are not duty-bound to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act. There are opportunities for budgetary changes to enable them to amend their ways of working. Public Procurement Rules are an example of this, where there is some conflict between what the law states and what the Well-being of Future Generations Act seeks to achieve.

There needs to be increased collaboration between public bodies implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We have set up our Sustainable Development Advisory Panel to support our advisory architecture and to ensure we are effectively embedding the Well-being of Future Generations Goals and Ways of Working into the work that we undertake and sharing this with our stakeholders.

The group will be an opportunity for us to demonstrate, present and share the sustainable development work we are conducting, and to offer feedback, assurance, and guidance on our activities as part of our Sustainable Development Plan. Members of the Panel include Public Health Wales and the Welsh Centre for International Affairs.

Being accountable to organisations who are expert in subject will help us to ensure we are successfully implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act needs to be talked about by everyone and a big push needs to be made by the people delivering the Well-being of Future Generations Act to raise awareness of it.

The delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act doesn't just sit with public bodies. There are champions for the Well-being of Future Generations Act in all sectors and they need to be able to share their experience of delivering the Act and offer opportunities to broaden collaboration and offer shared services. To do this, we believe an exchange or network for organisations not listed in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, could be beneficial.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Price', is written over a light grey dotted rectangular background.

James Price  
Chief Executive, Transport for Wales