

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol](#) ar [Y Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus \(Cymru\)](#)

This response was submitted to the [Equality and Social Justice Committee](#) consultation on [Social Partnership and Public Procurement \(Wales\) Bill](#)

SPPP 06

Ymateb gan: Cartrefi Cymunedol Cymru | Response from: Community Housing Cymru



Community Housing Cymru



About CHC and HAs

Community Housing Cymru (CHC) is the voice of housing associations in Wales. We represent and support 36 housing associations. Our members provide almost 165,000 homes to 10% of the Welsh population and contribute significantly to the Welsh foundational economy.

For the purposes of this Bill, housing associations are referred to as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

Sector Feedback on the Social Partnership and Procurement (Wales) Bill

We welcome this Bill and its aims to build social partnerships, encourage socially responsible procurement and ensure all workers are treated fairly throughout the supply chain. We recognise that social procurement is key to sustainable development and understand the importance of organisations committing to contribute to economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing goals.

We note the exclusion of RSLs from the provisions of the Bill. It is vital that the final legislation and guidance provides clarity on this point for the avoidance of doubt. It is also important that guidance sets out the rationale for this exclusion and is clear on whether it would be possible for the provisions of the Bill to be extended to RSLs in future.

RSLs are committed to building the foundational economy within the communities in which they operate. They routinely incorporate community benefits into tenders and are committed to delivering value for money to tenants. Consequently, RSLs may wish to act within the spirit of the legislation alongside public sector partners. It is therefore very important that they are included in any consultation on regulations and guidance developed under this legislation.

As stated above, clarity is needed regarding any measures within the Bill that RSLs could become subject to in the future. If RSLs did become subject to the Bill, barriers to delivery might include lack of resources and gaps in skills to support the analysis of risks or to introduce robust contract management processes throughout the supply chain. Traditionally, RSLs have had very small procurement teams or relied on external consultancy. There is also a risk that RSLs may have limited internal capacity to manage the various mapping tools which may accompany the Bill.