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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
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Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor,  
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Dyddiad / Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Dear Minister

### Future Generations Bill

The Welsh Collaboration for Health and Environment (WCHE), an amalgam of senior representatives from health, local authority and academia, has recently had the opportunity to consider the proposals contained within the Future Generations Bill and I have been asked to forward the views of the Collaboration as set out below.

WCHE is very supportive of the principles and proposals contained within the Bill, albeit it needs to be recognised that, in many localities, the type of partnership working which the Bill seeks to enshrine in law is already a matter of common practice and some caution will be required to avoid introducing unnecessary bureaucracy that could impede or interfere with existing successful arrangements.

Nevertheless, the Collaboration applauds the general direction of travel contained in the Bill and believes that the emphasis on securing a sustainable future for the nation's benefit is entirely appropriate. The WCHE stands ready to assist in any practical way to help the Welsh Government achieve the aims of the proposed legislation.

There is, however, one area where the Collaboration has some serious concerns and that is in connection with the Bill's relationship with the recent Public Health White Paper. In our response to the White Paper, we expressed disappointment and regret that the series of practical measures proposed for inclusion in the Public Health Act, whilst in themselves important and not without considerable merit, failed to promote the need for a more strategic and fundamental approach to public health by including a 'Health in all Policies' requirement allied to Health Impact Assessments (HIAs).

At the time, the suggestion was that these important issues would be included in the Future Generations Bill. We believe that the failure to grant a greater degree of prominence and priority to public health weakens both this Bill and any future Public Health Bill. The Collaboration's clear preference would be to see a statutory basis for 'Health in all Policies' and HIAs included within a Public health Bill but, failing that, we believe that the opportunity to further refine the Future Generations Bill by including these essential public health elements should be taken if we are not to miss an opportunity to put health equality and inequality centre stage.

The WCHE will, of course, be pleased to provide any further details or comments if requested and we wish to emphasise our commitment to help Ministers secure the overall objectives contained with the Future Generations Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AJones', written in a cursive style.

**Andrew Jones**  
**Chair, WCHE**  
**Executive Director of Public Health**