# **Consultation: The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill**

**1. Background**

**Purpose of the consultation**

The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill (“the Bill”) has been referred to the [Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee](https://senedd.wales/committee/741) (“the Committee”) for Stage 1 scrutiny of the general principles of the Bill.

According to the Welsh Government, the overarching aim of the Bill is to bring forward measures that will contribute to improvements in the quality of the air environment in Wales and reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health, biodiversity, the natural environment and the economy. The Bill proposes to:

• provide a framework for setting national air quality targets;

• amend existing legislation relating to the national air quality strategy; local air quality management; smoke control; clean air zones/low emission zones and vehicle idling;

• place a duty on Welsh Ministers to promote awareness of air pollution; and

• place a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish a national soundscape strategy.

Further detail about the Bill can be found in its accompanying Explanatory Memorandum (PDF xxKB)

To help inform its scrutiny, the Committee is seeking views on the general principles of the Bill and the need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention. The closing date for submissions is **Friday 28 April 2023.**

**Providing Written Evidence**

The Senedd has two official languages, Welsh and English.

In line with the Senedd’s Official Languages Scheme (<https://senedd.wales/commission/senedd-commission-policy/official-languages/>) the Committee welcomes contributions in both or either of our official languages, and we ask organisations that are subject to Welsh Language standards or schemes to respond in line with their own obligations. Please inform the Committee when submitting responses if you intend to provide a translation at a later date.

Please see guidance for those providing evidence for committees. (<https://senedd.wales/senedd-business/committees/getting-involved-with-committees/>)

**Disclosure of information**

Please ensure that you have considered the Senedd’s policy on disclosure of information (<https://senedd.wales/help/privacy/senedd-committee-privacy-notice/>) before submitting information to the Committee.

This template is available for you to draft your responses should you wish to think on your answers prior to submitting your response. All responses should be submitted via the online consultation form and not be submitted via email.

<https://senedd.wales/committees/climate-change-environment-and-infrastructure-committee/consultation-the-environment-air-quality-and-soundscapes-wales-bill/>

**4. Your opinion**

To assist with our inquiry, the Committee would welcome your views on any or all of the following points:

Some helpful things to be aware of before you start answering the consultation questions:

* You do not need to answer every question, only those on which you wish to share information or have a view.
* If you provide any information that you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, please indicate which parts should not be published and give your reasons for this.

1.What are your views on the general principles of the Bill, and is there a need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention?

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2. What are your views on the Bill’s provisions (set out according to sections below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

2.i) National air quality targets (sections 1 to 7)

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2.ii) Promoting awareness about air pollution (section 8)

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2.iii) National air quality strategy (sections 9 to 11)

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2.iv) Air quality regulations (section 12)

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2.v) Local air quality management (sections 13 to 15)

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2.vi) Smoke control (sections 16 to 18)

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2.vii) Vehicle emissions (sections 19 to 21)

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2.viii) National soundscapes strategy (sections 22 and 23)

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2.ix)Strategic noise map and noise action plans (sections 24)

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2.x) General provisions (sections 25 to 28);

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3. What are the potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill’s provisions and how does the Bill take account of them?

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4. How appropriate are the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum)?

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5. Are any unintended consequences likely to arise from the Bill?

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6. What are your views on the Welsh Government’s assessment of the financial implications of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?

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7. Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum or any related matters?

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