# **Consultation: Infrastructure (Wales) Bill**

**1. Background**

**Purpose of the consultation**

The Infrastructure (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to create a unified consenting process for infrastructure projects in Wales detaching consenting from current, largely outdated and inadequate arrangements to a new form of consent, which contains the full range of authorisations required to enable development. The Bill proposes:

• to establish a unified infrastructure consenting process for specified types of major infrastructure both on and offshore (up to territorial seaward boundary), including energy, transport, waste, water and gas projects. The new form of consent will be known as an “infrastructure consent” (“IC”) and will be issued in relation to projects which are prescribed as a “Significant Infrastructure Project” (“SIP”);

• to provide that developers must obtain an IC for a SIP. The IC is intended to contain the full range of authorisations required to enable the development to be implemented; and

• to therefore replace, either fully or partially, a number of existing statutory regimes for the consenting of infrastructure projects and rationalise the number of authorisations required to construct and operate such development into a single consent.

Further details about the Bill can be found in its accompanying [Explanatory Memorandum](https://senedd.wales/media/zhxnxhxq/pri-ld15880-em-e.pdf) (PDF 1.5MB)

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 11 August 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-infrastructure-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 Parts below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

2.i) Part 1 - Significant infrastructure projects

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2.ii) Part 2 - Requirement for infrastructure consent

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2.iii) Part 3 - Applying for infrastructure consent

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2.iv) Part 4 - Examining applications

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2.v) Part 5 - Deciding applications for infrastructure consent

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2.vi) Part 6 - Infrastructure consent orders

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2.vii) Part 7 - Enforcement

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2.viii) Part 8 - Supplementary functions

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2.ix) Part 9 - General provisions

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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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