
CYTÛN POLICY BULLETIN

JULY/AUGUST 2016



IMPLICATIONS OF LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION



The Welsh Government failed to announce its [Programme for Government](#) as expected prior to the end of the Assembly term in July because it required reconsideration in the light of the referendum result on June 23, when a majority of voters in Wales and England voted to leave the European Union.

This illustrates the far-reaching nature of the implications of the result, which will influence all policy areas over the coming years. Only gradually will the next steps become clear, as the new UK Government led by Theresa May, and the Welsh Government, get



to grips with everything which they need to do now. [Mrs May visited the Senedd](#) to meet First Minister Carwyn Jones shortly after her appointment, and promised that the Welsh Government would be participating in the process. Mr Jones has in turn promised wide consultation with political parties and other organisations in Wales.

The nature of the result – with a majority of voters in Scotland and Northern Ireland voting remain – has considerable implications also for the future inter-relationship between the various jurisdictions and nations of the British Isles, and because of that a special meeting of the [British-Irish Council](#) was called in Cardiff on July 22 to begin to discuss future possibilities in this regard.



Carwyn Jones has said that his two [‘red lines’](#) regarding the future are Welsh businesses having free access to the single market, and the continuation of funding for Wales corresponding to funding currently provided by the European Union. Plaid Cymru held a [special conference](#) on July 16 to decide its approach to the negotiations, and subsequently published a [detailed resolution](#) outlining its short-term and long-term goals. The House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee has launched an [inquiry](#) into the effects for Wales.

Other organisations across Wales have begun to consult with their members about their responses. On the Royal Welsh Showground, for example, both [NFU Cymru](#) and the [Farmers’ Union of Wales](#) began to discuss what kind of agricultural policy would be appropriate for Wales outside the European Union, meeting the [new Cabinet Secretary](#), Lesley Griffiths, as well as sharing information with their members regarding how the current arrangements will continue while Wales remains within the European Union.

A number of Welsh churches have set up a Working Party to co-ordinate their contribution to the discussions to come, and an invitation has been issued to all members of Cytûn to be part of it. More information about this work can be obtained from the Convenor, Noel Davies – noeldavies@aol.com

The Law and Religion UK blog is producing an excellent weekly digest of [Brexit Basics](#) regarding the legal implications of the separation which is to come.

NEW LAWS FOR WALES

Although it was not possible to announce a full Programme for Government, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones [announced](#) that the Government will introduce six new laws during 2016-17, subject to Assembly approval. Three of them have already been drafted:

- [Land Transaction Tax and Anti-avoidance of Devolved Taxes \(Wales\) Bill](#), which will introduce one of the new Welsh taxes in April 2018, and also presents general principles regarding devolved taxation. The link above takes you to an incomplete draft Bill, published in order to consult on both technical matters and questions of principle.
- [Public Health \(Wales\) Bill](#). This Bill, which was defeated on the final day of the fourth Assembly (see [Policy Bulletin March 2016](#)), will be reintroduced without the controversial clauses restricting the use of nicotine inhaling devices (e-cigarettes). It will provide for improved planning with regard to pharmacy services and public toilets, and control procedures such as tattooing and body piercing.
- [Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Bill](#), which was the subject of consultation in late 2015.

The other three measures anticipated are:

- A Bill introducing a devolved [Landfill Disposals Tax](#).
- A Bill repealing those parts of the UK [Trade Union Act 2016](#) which the Welsh Government considers relate to devolved matters, such as restricting trade union rights within the Welsh public sector. The UK Government has already indicated that it does not agree that the Assembly has the power to legislate in this area, and so this could end up in the Supreme Court.
- A Bill repealing the [Right to Buy and the Right to Acquire](#) for tenants within the Welsh public housing sector.

Since the initial announcement, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, Carl Sargeant, has indicated that a Bill [removing the defence of “reasonable chastisement”](#) with regard to striking children (i.e. a Bill preventing smacking) will be introduced in the 2017-18 session, and an Autism Bill is expected later during the Fifth Assembly.

All this legislation will be monitored on behalf of the churches by the Laser Group, which includes the church and society officers (employed or voluntary) of the denominations in membership of Cytûn, [Evangelical Alliance Wales](#) and some other organisations (such as [Housing Justice Cymru](#) and the Children’s Society in Wales). Further details may be obtained from your denominational officer or from Cytûn’s Policy Officer (see page 6).

THE CLIMATE GOES ON CHANGING...

In October 8-16, the coalition Stop Climate Chaos Wales – which includes Christian Aid, Cafod and Tearfund, will be calling on churches to arrange local [lobbying events](#) in their constituencies to remind politicians that climate change is continuing.

This will be an opportunity to resume conversations with Members of Parliament which began last summer when a substantial number of people went from Wales to [Westminster](#) to see them. The Coalition will be asking about the action plan of the UK Government to meet the targets in the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. It is expected that this plan will be published before the end of 2016, so October will be a key time to influence it.

This will also be an opportunity to meet new Assembly Members, following on from the successful (but wet) [rally](#) on the steps of the Senedd last November. The Coalition will be calling for ambitious plans to hit the targets in the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#).

THE WALES BILL

Wales Bill

[AS AMENDED IN COMMITTEE]

CONTENTS

PART 1

CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1 Permanence of the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Government

2 Convention about Parliament legislating on devolved matters

3 Legislative competence

4 When public authorities

5 Elections

6 Power to make provisions about elections

7 Timing of elections

8 Electoral administration: the electoral service

The Wales Bill has started its legislative progress through the Westminster Parliament, with [mixed responses](#) by [academic experts](#) and [Welsh politicians](#) to its contents. Cytûn was part of the consultation session arranged by the [Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee](#) on the Bill on July 11, and we have responded to a request for feedback by the Wales Office regarding the Working Party established, involving both Governments, to consider how the development of Welsh

legislation affects the unified legal jurisdiction of England and Wales.

The House of Commons chamber spent two days in committee considering the Bill. A number of amendments were proposed by the opposition parties there – many based on amendments drafted by the Assembly’s Presiding Officer or by the Welsh Government – but none of these have so far been approved. Cytûn has been part of discussions with the Welsh Language Commissioner about clauses in the Bill as drafted which suggest that there will be new restrictions on the ability of the Assembly to legislate regarding use of the Welsh language by UK Government bodies which operate in Wales.

It is not yet known how the UK Government might wish to adapt the Wales Bill, drawn up on the assumption of continued membership of the European Union, following the referendum. It is possible that it will proceed with the measure in its current form and then amend it in due course through legislation regarding exiting the Union.

The next debate about the Bill is scheduled for the House of Commons on September 12. It will then go to the Lords. The text of the Bill as it currently stands can be read [here](#).

CONSULTATIONS

Welsh Government, Assembly Committees and Westminster’s Welsh Affairs Committee, together with a number of other public bodies, conduct regular consultation with the public. WCVA publishes a comprehensive list on its [website](#). It is not possible to respond to all of these, but Cytûn and its members do their best to respond to the most important. Here are some of the consultations which are open over the summer, with their closing dates. Contact Cytûn (see page 65) if you would like to help with a response or know more.

Wales and Borders rail franchise	26/08/2016
Consultation on phase 1 implementation of the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016	20/09/2016
Language, work and bilingual services: Local government and Welsh language	09/09/2016
Priorities for Children, Young People and Education Committee	09/09/2016
Children, Young People and Education Committee Inquiry into Youth Work	09/09/2016
Law Commission consultation on Planning Law in Wales	30/09/2016
Historic Environment (Wales) Act: Secondary legislation and draft guidance	03/10/2016
Housing an ageing population	02/09/2016
Finance Committee background consultation to Welsh Government draft budget 2017-18	21/09/2016
Welsh Language Standards – Improving services for Welsh speakers in the health sector	14/10/2016

VISITING THE SENEDD



Faith communities were well represented in the opening ceremony of the Fifth Assembly on June 7. In the picture on the left are: Revd Gethin Rhys (Cytûn), Mrs Melda Grantham (Unitarian Church), Revd Sally Thomas (United Reformed Church and Cytûn), Mr Saleem Kidwai (Muslim Council of Wales) and Revd Peter Noble (Ecumenical Chaplain to Cardiff Bay).

On June 20 2016 Cytûn arranged a visit to the Senedd for our members' church and society officers (Laser Group). We had the privilege of a picture taken in the chamber behind the Presiding Officer's chair. In the picture on the right are (left to right): Revd Peter Noble; Sharon Lee (Director of Housing Justice Cymru); Dave Kitchen (Methodist Church); Revd Sally Thomas; Major David Emery (Salvation Army); Grace Pengelly (Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodist Church, Baptist Union of Great Britain, United Reformed Church and Church of Scotland); Gethin Rhys; Philip Manghan (Roman Catholic Church). You can arrange your own visit to the stunning Senedd building and learn more about the work of its members through the [Assembly website](#) or by ringing 0300 200 6565

THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN WALES

The House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee has published a report into the future of nuclear power in Wales. [The report summary](#) and [the full report](#) are on its website.

The report highlights the great potential for developing nuclear power in North Wales, at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd. However, it says that the UK Government has more work to do to prove the financial viability of the proposed projects. The Government and developers must also make sure that local communities benefit and that they mitigate the likely disruption major infrastructure developments would cause.

The Committee says that the Government should only build Wylfa Newydd if the strike price is below that agreed for the Hinkley Point C and competitive with renewable sources. They must be transparent on cost and provide a clear and comprehensible explanation of the lifetime cost of the project, including decommissioning and waste disposal.

There is a notable lack of public confidence in nuclear power. However, the Committee is confident that the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) can ensure that nuclear power in the UK will operate safely. That said, the Government and Horizon Nuclear Power, who will operate Wylfa Newydd, must do more to educate the public about how nuclear power is regulated effectively and operates safely in the UK.

To diminish the impact of Trawsfynydd's closure on the local area, a more continuous decommissioning plan for the site should be considered. The Government should also accelerate the process for identifying a suitable site for the geological disposal facility so that there is a long-term plan for storing waste safely and securely. They also recommend that Trawsfynydd be designated as a site for a first-of-its-kind Small Modular Reactor.

SYRIAN CHURCH LEADERS VISIT WALES

During May 2016, the charity [Christian Rebuild](#) organised and funded the visit of two Syrian Christian leaders to the UK. The aim of the visit was to promote and raise awareness of ancient Christianity in Syria, and to inform people of the unimaginable circumstances currently prevailing in Syria and its effects on the Christian population. Cytûn hosted a private meeting with Welsh church leaders and a public meeting where one of the visitors was able to share some of their moving story.

Syria has a population of approximately 20 million people, with a little over 10% of the population Christian, equivalent to more than two million people. Christians and Muslims have lived together in Syria for the last 1,400 years. Due to the current circumstances and uncertainty, many Christians are unsure what their future holds in this beautiful and ancient country.

Since the war began, over half the Christian population has fled the country. However, many of the remaining Christians are determined to stay in the country, and help rebuild this wonderful, ancient and historical society, believing that Christianity remains an important part of its future.

You can read and hear more about the visit at: <http://www.christianrebuild.co.uk/#!syrian-visit-2016/c8k2>

“Help Us Change the Story” asks Christian Aid

The stories we hear and the stories we tell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda.

The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees. In the 1930s the Kindertransport saved the lives of Jewish children from Germany. In the 1970s the UK welcomed Ugandan Asians fleeing Idi Amin’s regime, and in the 1990s we opened our doors to Kosovan refugees.

Today, more than 65 million people are displaced globally. Forced from their homes by violence, fear, desperation, or poverty, each person is made in God’s image, and is deserving of safety, freedom and hope. In a society divided over immigration, our message of shared humanity is more important than ever. Yet, refugees are often portrayed negatively in the media. We are told that they are a drain on our economy and that we should be fearful about the impact of immigration on our communities. We hear far less about the positive contributions that refugees make, how refugees have enhanced our society, and about the willingness of local people to make refugees welcome.

Faith communities are at the heart of a different story, galvanising local support to find homes for people forced from their countries by violence and conflict and now in desperate situations. But so far, the response of the UK Government has not matched the scale of the crisis, nor the compassion of those who have already opened their homes to refugees. Instead, poor countries - like Lebanon and Iraq - are hosting 86% of the world’s refugees. Christian Aid is urging that the UK government commit to host at least double the number of refugees from Syria that it has currently promised, and do more to ensure safe and legal passage for those escaping violence to travel to and through Europe.

On 19 September 2016 President Obama will host a high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach. Before then, Christian Aid believes that we need to use the local press to change the story. Find out more at www.christianaid.org.uk/changethestory.

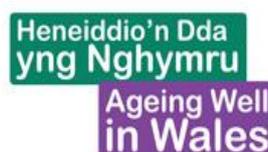
Dementia Supportive Wales

Over the past 18 months, businesses, community groups, local, town and community councils have been working together to make a real difference to the lives of people living with dementia, and those who care for them.

Cytûn is part of [Ageing Well in Wales](#), which has been working closely with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Alzheimer's Society to help support people making Wales a nation of dementia supportive communities.

The Alzheimer's Society has appointed five Dementia Friendly Community Coordinators to support grassroots action in Wales. If you'd like to find out more about becoming dementia friendly, we recommend you get in touch with your local coordinator:

- ☐ **Gwent, Caerphilly & South Powys: Ian Thomas**
ian.thomas@alzheimers.org.uk | 01874 712 083
 - ☐ **South-East Wales: Rhia Stankovic-Jones**
rhia.jones@alzheimers.org.uk | 02920 434 960
 - ☐ **South-West Wales: Marcia Vale**
marcia.vale@alzheimers.org.uk | 01269 597 411
 - ☐ **Montgomery & Radnorshire: Karen Rodenburg**
karen.rodenburg@alzheimers.org.uk | 01686 629 530
 - ☐ **North Wales: Jo Lane**
jo.lane@alzheimers.org.uk | 01352 700 728
- For more about Dementia Friends, go to www.dementiafriends.org.uk
For more on Dementia Friendly Communities, go to www.alzheimers.org.uk/dementiafriendlycommunities



Rhaglen bartneriaeth ar gyfer gweithredu ar y cyd ar draws Cymru ac yn Ewrop
A partnership programme for collaborative action across Wales and in Europe



TRACK THE ACT

The [Social Services and Well-being \(Wales\) Act](#) came into force on 6 April. It includes:

- A new broader definition of a carer, including more carers – such as people who are caring for someone at an earlier stage or for shorter amounts of time.
- A new duty on local authorities to offer carer needs assessments.
- A new duty on local authorities to meet the assessed needs of a carer, if eligible.

Local authorities now must ensure they have information, advice and assistance services in place and clearly signposted so carers can get the right information at the right time.

[Carers Wales](#) are encouraging carers to [Track the Act](#) by filling in a simple online survey about their experiences of the new arrangements.



CONTACTING THE CYTÛN POLICY OFFICER

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS!!

Parch./Revd Gethin Rhys - Swyddog Polisi/Policy Officer

Cytûn - Eglwysi Ynghyd yng Nghymru/Churches Together in Wales

58 Richmond Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 3AT

Tel: 029 2046 4378 Mudol/mobile: 07889 858062



E-bost/E-mail: gethin@cytun.cymru

www.cytun.org.uk



@CytunNew

Hapus i gyfathrebu yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg. Happy to communicate in Welsh and English

Cytûn is a registered company in England and Wales | Number: 05853982 | Registered name: "Cytûn: Eglwysi Ynghyd yng Nghymru/Churches Together in Wales Limited" |

Cytûn is a registered charity | Number: 1117071

Publication date: 28 July 2016.

The next Policy Bulletin will be published in late September 2016.