

Future Generations

Commissioner for Wales

Annual Report 2018-2019

Acting today,
for a better tomorrow.



WHAT'S CHANGING?

What's changing?

Acting today for a better tomorrow

A NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

In this third year since the Well-being of Future Generations Act came into force, at the dawn of the 20th anniversary of devolution in Wales, I am very pleased to see that public bodies and public services boards covered by the Act are clearly on the journey towards sustainability. They have started taking visible steps to meet their well-being objectives and to achieve the national well-being goals, despite the difficult conditions.

This has meant that there has been an increasing demand for my advice and assistance from public bodies and organisations. Therefore, I have also chosen to proactively advise on issues which relate to my areas of focus which are the equivalent of my own well-being objectives – planning, housing, transport, adverse childhood experiences, better ways of keeping people well and future skills.

This report says what work has been done towards these things in 2018-2019.



SOPHIE HOWE
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

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TRANSPORT

M4 - Wales had to make a choice on whether or not to spend at least £1.4bn on building a new sustainable transport future. Following our evidence to the M4 public enquiry in 2017-18, I collaborated with Sustrans, the Centre for Transport and Society at the University of the West of England, and the New Economics Foundation to publish 'Transport Fit for Future Generations' Report. This intervention and approach was crucial in the decision not to proceed with the M4 relief road.

WelTAG - Following our advice in 2017-18, the Well-being of Future Generations Act is upfront and central and represents a significant procedural change in how public bodies should go about their transport that reduce carbon emissions, encourage equality of access, improve health, air quality and promote active travel. We are concerned that those commissioning and writing the WelTAG reports are not able to clearly apply the Act and new ways of working, so I have been very clear on my expectations which is, if they haven't applied the five ways of working at Stage 1 they need to start again and Government should not release funding if the process is not followed correctly.

Transport for Wales Rail Franchise - we have continued to support and challenge them to ensure all promised opportunities to contribute to the seven well-being goals are taken.



What's changing?

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A globally responsible Wales

- Transport for Wales will have due regard to conserving and enhancing biodiversity and will comply with international legislation
- We will minimise the global impact of our waste
- We will support Wales' Fairtrade Nation status

A prosperous Wales

- We will provide work opportunities for small businesses and social enterprises
- We will provide staff the opportunity to access training
- Create 600 new jobs, investing in 30 apprenticeships every year
- More than 50% of new trains will be assembled in Wales
- We will divert 95% of our waste away from landfill and recycle at least 50%
- We will create a true 7-day railway with new Sunday and Bank Holiday services
- Become an accredited Living Wage employer by 2021 to be cascaded through our supply chain

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

- Our brand is bilingual we support the Welsh language through bilingual customer information & bilingual staff
- Fund & support all staff who want to learn
- Providing access to Wales' vibrant culture and natural heritage working with Visit Wales to develop a new rail and tourism strategy
- Supporting the work of local artists at stations
- Sponsoring the Eisteddfod through Gold level sponsorship



A resilient Wales

- Electricity for stations and the overhead wires will come from 100% zero carbon energy, with at least 50% sourced in Wales
- We will reduce our water use by 50%
- We will manage environmental risk
- We will develop a Biodiversity Action Plan

A Wales of cohesive communities

- Employing Customer and Community Ambassadors to encourage a greater sense of community around the rail network
- Doubling the number of Community Rail Partnerships, with 90% of stations to be adopted
- Engage with local communities to ensure their interests are at the heart of our decision-making
- Developing a more integrated transport network
- Recycling old train carriages for community use

A healthier Wales

- Promoting active travel, new cycle storage and safe, well-lit walking routes to encourage people to make healthier choices
- Reduce our contribution to air pollution
- Employing Community Ambassadors to work with local communities, encouraging and training people to use the rail network
- Mental health awareness training for all staff

A more equal Wales

- Developing a new fares structure to ensure price is not a barrier to using the network
- During off-peak, cheaper fares will be introduced including, under 16s being able to travel free with a paying adult, and the age limit for half fares will be increased from 16 to 18 across Wales
- Close working with Disability groups to improve accessibility and set up a new accessibility panel for ongoing input
- Staff will volunteer in the community and are offered time off to do so

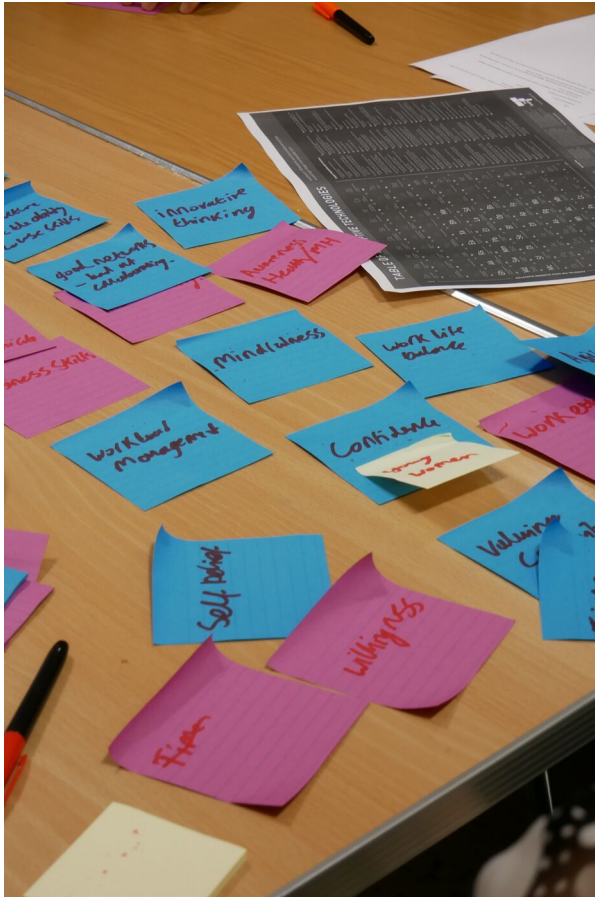


IMAGE: TRANSPORT FOR WALES

Perhaps one of the clearest examples of how the Act has successfully had an impact on the national level is within the largest procurement contract awarded by Welsh Government. The largest single procurement contract worth £5bn was awarded to French-Spanish joint venture KeolisAmey in 2018. The modelling done by KeolisAmey was focussed on delivering the seven well-being goals and I welcome Transport for Wales' positive approach and willingness to work with myself and others to identify best practice internationally. I have continued to support and challenge Transport for Wales and work directly with the new operator to ensure all opportunities to contribute to the seven well-being goals are realised.

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FUTURE SKILLS

For the majority of public bodies, these objectives seek to meet the demand of the current economy and do not focus on improving wider social, cultural and environmental well-being at the same time.

This narrow focus limits the scope of their proposed steps in developing skills and education. For example, missed opportunities of improving skills in low-carbon industries, making sure available opportunities are equal to all, and ensuring that programmes improve the health of participants.

To address, I am working in partnership with Cardiff Business School to publish guidance on the steps public bodies should take to ensure they are equipping their own workforce with the skills which will be needed in the future.

We held an intergenerational workshop and a separate round table with Phil Brown, Chair on the Welsh Government review of digital innovation.



(IPPR 2019 REPORT)

81.5% of the workforce of 2030 in Wales; and 60.8% of the workforce of 2040 have already left compulsory education.

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Launch of Welsh Government Low Carbon Plan

Sophie Howe (Left) Mark Drakeford (Centre) and Sion Sleep (Right).

JANE HUTT AM DEPUTY MINISTER AND CHIEF WHIP

"The Act is a unique way of tackling long-term challenges and the fact Welsh Government has declared a climate emergency following a low carbon plan for Wales demonstrates that."

DECARBONISATION

In April 2018, I issued advice to all Cabinet Secretaries including Lesley Griffiths and Ken Skates on decarbonisation and advised that the Welsh Government should:

- Follow the 5 ways of working and consider all well-being goals when setting Welsh carbon budgets and targets,
- Accelerate action on carbon reduction over the next few years as well as thinking further head to 2030 and 2050.
- Agree more ambitious ministerial commitments to reducing emissions that make up the remaining 45% (i.e. non-industrial sectors which are within WG control).
- Consider requirements of the global Paris Agreement which aims to keep warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and ensure wider engagement to inform future work.

A few months later, on 10 July 2018 - Cabinet agreed to add decarbonisation as a 6th priority area in Prosperity for All.

We provided detailed advice to Welsh Government on the development of its Plan for a Low Carbon Wales which was published in March 2019.

Our monitoring of the budget in 2018 shows that approximately only 1% of current Welsh Government funding is supporting action on decarbonisation. I recently published a 10 point plan on funding the climate emergency.

I welcome Lesley Griffiths' announcement on her ambition to bring forward a target for Wales to achieve net zero emissions no later than 2050.

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The Chartered Institute of Housing Wales needs to build 15,000 homes per year if we're to stand a chance of ending the housing crisis within a generation.

NATURAL ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS INVENTORY (2015)

"Households in Wales contribute to 8% of Wales' greenhouse gas emissions, of which 97% arises from the fuel used for heating and cooking."

HOUSING

Innovative Housing Programme - I have challenged Welsh Government on how they were selecting schemes under the three-year programme to be more forward thinking and develop an evidence base of best practice.

Working with a secondee from Constructing Excellence in Wales, I gave advice to improve both the Welsh Government and applicants' awareness and assessment of the projects. This resulted in a commitment from government that in Year 3 the Act would be given much more consideration and weight.

My office worked closely with the Affordable Housing Review Panel to provide advice and challenge sessions to support those involved to approach the exercise with a long-term, integrated and well-being focus.

I advised that the Review should consider actual needs within Wales, including future trends and the links to decarbonisation and jobs and skills for the future and the ageing population.

The findings of the Review were published on 1 May 2019 and the recommendations are aligned with the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

In 2019, I will be focusing on providing advice on the implementation of the Housing Review recommendations, and to the Advisory Panel on the Decarbonisation of Existing Homes which is due to report in July.

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LAND USE PLANNING

I have worked with Welsh Government to update their national planning documents, starting with a full revision of Planning Policy Wales (the national planning strategy for Wales) and the design of the National Development Framework (the national statutory spatial plan for Wales).

This will be followed by the Local Development Manual in 2019. These are key documents that will drive the direction and manner in which planning law will be applied in the years to come and so it is essential that they are designed to drive progress towards the well-being goals.

As part of ensuring the whole system understands their obligations under the Act, I have engaged with the Planning Inspectorate for Wales, observing local planning hearings and inquiries and providing advice.

The Planning Inspectorate has recently rejected planning appeals on the basis of inconsistency with the well-being objectives and seven well-being goals.

I have involved many organisations including the Royal Town Planning Institute in my work and have spent a lot of time engaging with professionals working at all levels of the planning system. I have also recently started collaborating with Planning Aid Wales so that people get the help available to them and to ensure Planning Aid Wales consultants are aware of the Act and our advice.

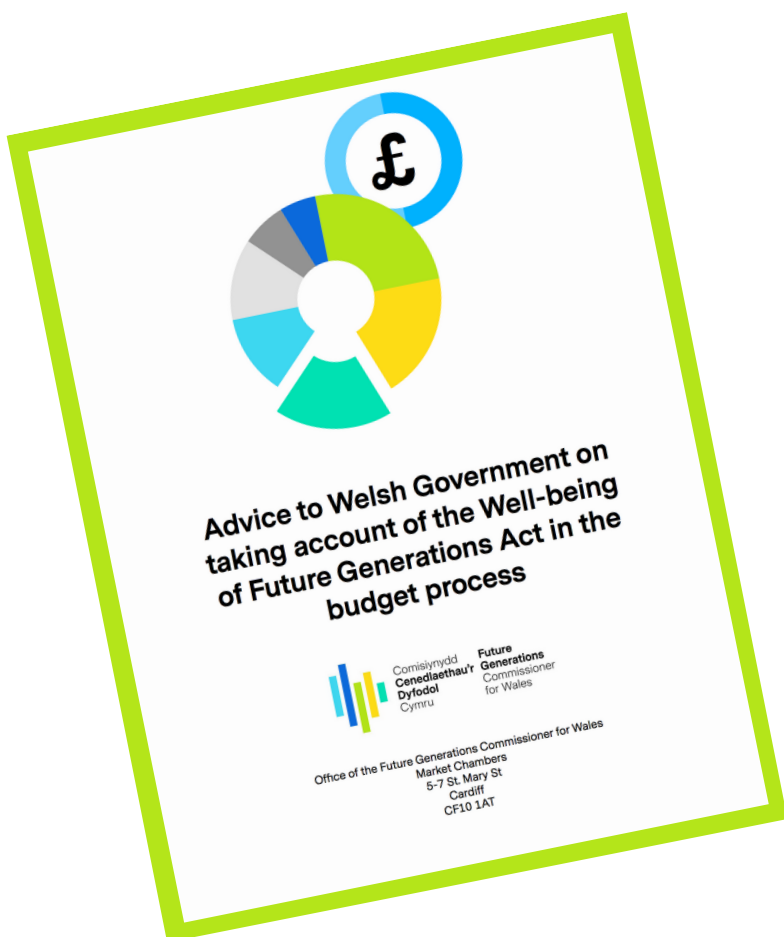


PHIL WILLIAMS, PLANNING CONSULTANT

"The introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations Act has added a new and necessary dimension to our strategic planning thinking, in ensuring that we pay equal attention to the long-term future as to the present day."

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JANE HUTT AM
DEPUTY MINISTER AND CHIEF WHIP

"The Commissioner has had a powerful influence in moving the Welsh Government towards a more preventative budgeting approach."

BUDGET

I monitor and assess the draft budget each year and provide evidence to the National Assembly for Wales Finance Committee. Last year, I advised and successfully agreed with the then Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Mark Drakeford AM a definition for prevention. I expect to see how the definition is informing spending decisions and we're pleased to see some analysis in this year's budget.

Last year, the budget lines that were considered against the prevention definition presented a limited picture and it was difficult to understand how they fitted into all of the other spend in relevant areas. Beyond the presentation of the budget narrative, there was not much evidence that spending decisions were being made in a more integrated way.

I published our advice to Welsh Government about the change I expect to see and we're working closely with Treasury Officials to support this work. This year I will be monitoring how the budget is addressing the climate emergency.

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HEALTH SYSTEM CHANGE

Evidence suggests that only 15-20% of a nation's health and well-being is dependent on healthcare services and yet over 50% of the Welsh Government's budget is allocated to health spending. As the health service is so vast and so dependent on the funding relationship with Welsh Government, I have focused on providing advice on how they work with health bodies, in particular around long-term planning.

This is dictated by Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTPs), which are key documents setting out milestones and actions over a 1 - 3-year period. Following my advice, Powys Teaching Health Board, Public Health Wales, Aneurin Bevan, Cwm Taf, Cardiff & Vale University Health Boards and the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership are showing evidence of embedding the Act through their IMTPs.

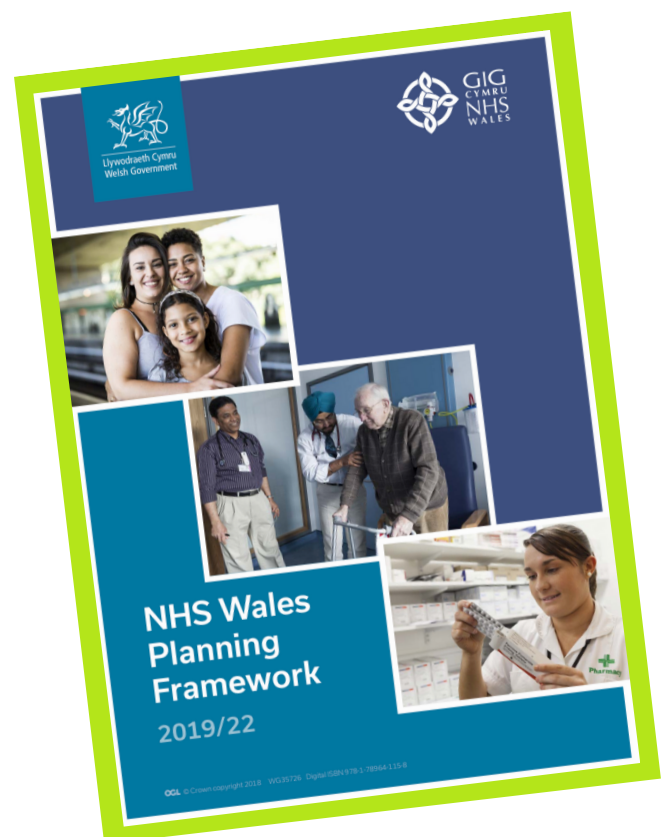
The NHS Planning Framework 2019- 22 also now contains a growing emphasis on the Well-being of Future Generations Act including a definition of 'prevention', a link to our 'Journey' encouraging health boards to self-reflect on their progress against the Act.

Despite this, I believe the Government could do more to drive the shift needed to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act by aligning their performance measures, funding allocations and day to day interaction with health boards. In the coming year I will undertake further work to assess how the Government are supporting implementation of the act within this sector.

Aneurin Bevan Health Board are detailing the habitat and geology of their sites and as per NHS Pollinator Friendly Estate guidance, have planted wildflowers.

Although not a named body under legislation, **Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust** is also embracing and applying the well-being of future generations principles.

GPs in Cardiff are prescribing patients to use Nextbikes, to encourage a healthier lifestyle and improve recovery..



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EXAMPLES OF REQUESTS

Members of the FGC team ran 3 horizons workshops (a model for futures/long-term thinking) at the NHS Wales Long-term Planning Conference. This was to help health professionals think and plan for the long-term, one of the five ways of working. Feedback was incredibly positive...

The Office of Future Generations produced an excellent workshop for the recent event on 'Supporting Long Term Planning' in March 2019. The workshop produced a lively debate about where people saw themselves and others, and how this technique can be used easily in meetings and projects to achieve successful results. Having this workshop at the event proved to be a change and gave those who participated 'food for thought'.

REQUESTS FOR ADVICE

- In 2018-19, we received over 183 separate requests for help, 52% of which were from public bodies covered by the Act. Others came from amongst others: housing association, professional bodies, universities and third sector organisations.
- Of the requests that we have received, around a half were able to be supported through signposting to (or adapting) existing resources, or through face-to-face meetings. Some requests we supported included:
- Training on our Future Generations Scrutiny Framework to Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and Caerphilly councils.
- Providing advice to Velindre NHS Trust on embedding their well-being objectives.
- Contributing to the 'Snowdonia National Park Cynllun Eryri' Management Plan - this was about getting social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being considered by the National Park and its partners. As a result, the draft report contains themes and connections made across the seven well-being goals and 5 ways of working.

WREXHAM PSB'S TEAM

"Your advice included plenty of really useful ideas that I can read to get up to speed and inspire our programme boards."

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WHAT IS A LIVE LAB?

A “Live Lab” is a creative process we can use to:

Bring about significant improvements in well-being in your area

Explore complex problems and opportunities from the perspective of future generations

Challenge the “business as usual” approach

Test ways of delivering significant changes in policy design and service delivery

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

I am committed to helping develop the vision for ‘ACE-informed’ public services to bring about the procedural and practical change that is needed. Last year, I dedicated a lot of my work on ACEs to raising awareness through advice to PSBs through the well-being planning process.

The ACEs Hub is moving from raising awareness to driving institutional change. I am helping them scope this work, key elements of which include embedding and sustaining trauma-informed practice across public services, and communities. In the coming year,

I will also deliver a Live Lab on ACEs with Cwm Taf Health Board. This is my most detailed offer of support which is about working and learning alongside a small number of bodies or public services boards, focusing on trying and testing new approaches.

WHAT IS AN ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCE?

ACEs are stressful experiences occurring during childhood that directly harm a child (e.g. sexual or physical abuse) or affect the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence). For every 100 adults in Wales, 47 have suffered at least one ACE during their childhood and 14 have suffered 4 or more.

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PROFESSOR JONATHAN BOSTON - NEW ZEALAND

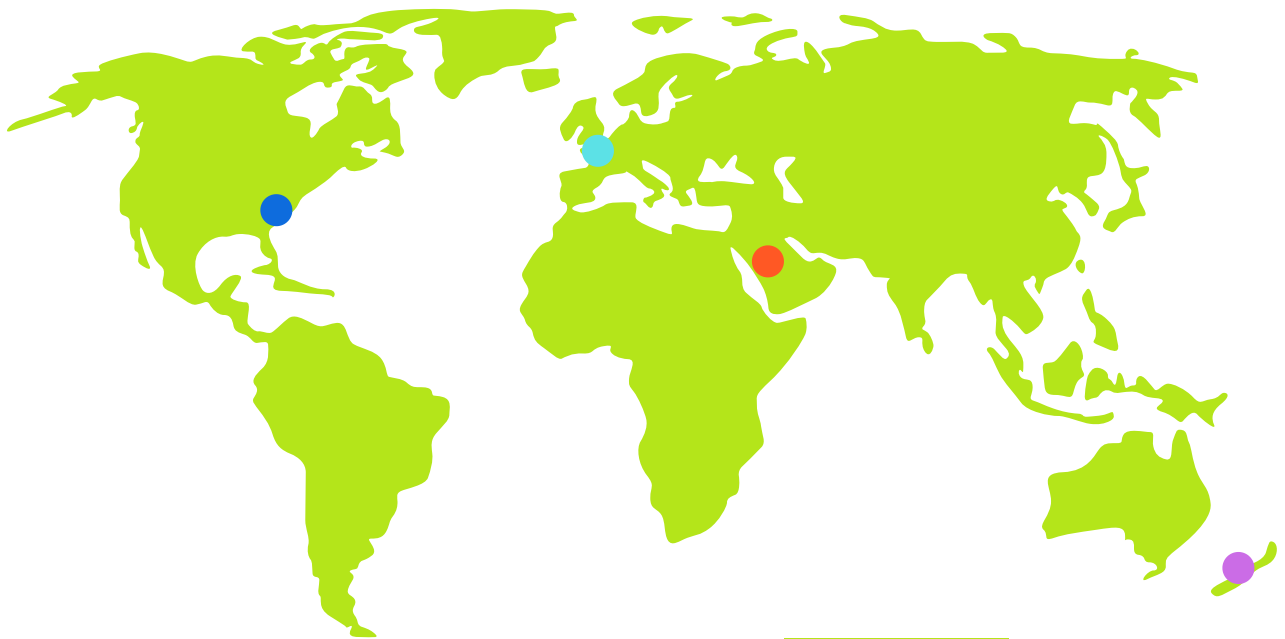
The legislation is remarkable in terms of its breadth, its coverage and ambition. There's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the world. I am enormously impressed with the amount of work the Commissioner has done in a very short space of time to seek to give expression to the legislation and to make it work. I think in one's language you would say, "One would take one's hat off." I'm sure that Wales is going to be one of the lighthouses on the horizon that will be shining a beacon that will be of relevance to many other jurisdictions..."

INTERNATIONAL

- The Well-being of Future Generations Act remains the only legislation of its type in the world and is regarded as a leading example for others by the United Nations.
- In July 2018 and July 2019 the Commissioner addressed the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations, New York. This annual forum tracks progress towards meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- In February 2019, the Commissioner delivered a key-note speech at the World Government Summit in Dubai, UAE. As a result, the UAE Minister of Happiness and Well-being created a Wellbeing Strategy for the UAE based on the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- The Commissioner is working closely with senior representatives of the NZ Government Treasury to share experiences and approaches, in particular to budgeting.
- The Commissioner is also working closely with interested actors across the world who are interested in adopting similar legislation including the Netherlands, Gibraltar and the UK.
- During my visit to the UN in July 2019, I met with the UN Special Envoy on Climate, Luis de Alba, who was encouraged by the work we're doing in Wales and is keen to showcase this approach at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019.

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- The United Arab Emirates have adopted elements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act into their recently formed 'Wellbeing Strategy UAE' following our visit to Dubai in February 2019.
- We are working with UN agencies including UN Women, UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and the UN Special Envoy for Climate Change to explore ways of showcasing Wales' legislation as a blueprint for other countries.
- We are exploring opportunities to collaborate with the New Zealand Treasury on 'Well-being and preventative budgeting' and co-creating a toolkit for Governments.
- The Commissioner continues to be the Chair of the Network of Institutions for Future Generations. Other members include; the Netherlands, Israel, Canada and Hungary.

Image right

Sophie Howe (Left)
Mary Robinson
(Right) at the UN
High Level Political
Forum.



Image left

Sophie Howe (Left)
H.E. Ohood al
Roumi, Minister of
State for Happiness
and Well-being, UAE
(Right) at the World
Government
Summit



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WATCH OUR BSL ANNUAL REPORT

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