

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2023

Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales

The Commission is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body (WGSB) established in 1974 under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972 as the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and renamed under the terms of Section 2 of the Local Government (Democracy)(Wales) Act 2013 (the 2013 Act). The provisions of the 2013 Act in respect of the Commission replace those of the 1972 Act.

The purpose of the Commission is:

To monitor areas and electoral arrangements relevant to local government in Wales for the purpose of considering whether it is appropriate to make or recommend changes. In carrying out its duties the Commission must seek to ensure effective and convenient local government.

The Commission is required under the 2013 Act to carry out reviews of the electoral arrangements of Wales' principal councils at least once every 10 years and conducts its reviews by means of consultation with the principal councils, community councils and other interested parties including the public.

The Commission occupies a single floor in an office building and its functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and land management and places the Commission in the Group 1 category.

Whilst the building is managed by the landlord, the Commission is responsible for its own internal environmental policies and practises that is linked to its function.

The Commission actively pursues policies that seek to reduce the impact its operations have on the environment. The Commission undertakes a number of initiatives to reduce environmental impact, such as ensuring all members of staff receive sustainable development training. Previously the Commission sought to achieve the Green Dragon Environmental Standard however have now incorporated its requirements as part of business as usual. The Commission also continues to implement sustainable procurement policies and continues to maintain level three of the Sustainable Procurement Assessment Framework in the key areas.

The Welsh Government's strategic agenda is set out in the Programme for Government. It emphasises the outcomes that Welsh Government are working towards: healthy people living productive lives in a more prosperous and innovative economy; safer and more cohesive communities, with lower levels of poverty and greater equality; a resilient environment with more sustainable use of our natural resources and a society with a vital sense of its own culture and heritage.

The Commission acknowledges and supports the commitment of the Welsh Government to develop more inclusive and cohesive communities across Wales and will endeavour to take account of that commitment in making any recommendations.

Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales Objectives

Objective 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.

Actions :

- Ensure the organisation abides by the commitments and practices the requirements of Green Dragon as part of business as usual
- To continue to deliver its procurement function via the Commission's 'Sustainable Procurement Policy'
- Continue to deliver awareness raising sessions to staff through training and updates at monthly team meetings

Objective 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats

Actions :

- Continue to provide recycling facilities within the office
- Ensure all print orders are 50/50 (50% recycled material)
- Utilising local suppliers where possible
- Staff encouraged to utilise public transport where possible
- Support Cycle-to-work for interested staff
- Provision of low-power usage computers
- Continue to utilise virtual meeting technologies to reduce the Commission's overall carbon footprint

Objective 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

Actions:

- Chief Executive responsible for ensuring biodiversity action is taken
- Provision of training and development for staff who have an interest in biodiversity matters

Review of S6 Duty

A review of the Commission's S6 Duty will be carried out annually and reflected within the following year's Operational Plan

This document is available in Welsh