

LGF (S20) 22
Bil Cyllid Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru)
Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill
Ymateb gan: Leah Powell
Response from: Leah Powell

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concerns about a proposal to remove the statutory requirement for councils to publish council tax changes in print local newspapers (Clause 20 of the [Local Government Finance \(Wales Bill\)](#)).

I believe that the requirement should continue – older people and those in rural area often depend on newspapers for information including public notices. According to Digital Communities Wales, the level of digital exclusion in Wales is higher than the rest of the UK with as many as seven per cent of the population not using the internet; for these people public notices within local newspapers are a crucial lifeline. Along with concerns about people who may already be disadvantaged struggling more – if the change goes ahead – the move would also have a negative impact on revenue made by local newspapers at a time when the cost-of-living crisis and changes in the world of journalism are already making it a struggle.

I strongly believe that councils should still be required to publish council tax changes in print local newspapers – for the benefit of communities across Wales and to avoid further damaging local journalism.

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I am submitting as an individual, but also as an employee of Newsquest.