
Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol | Equality and Social Justice Committee

Ymateb gan: Foundations for Tomorrow | Evidence from: Foundations for Tomorrow

Written Evidence Submission: Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Introduction

My name is Taylor Hawkins, and I am the Managing Director of [Foundations for Tomorrow](#), a youth-led non-profit based in Australia committed to embedding long-term thinking and intergenerational fairness into governance and policy. I also currently serve on the executive leadership team of the [Network of Institutions for Future Generations](#) and previously worked within the [United Nations Foundation's Our Future Agenda](#) team in the lead-up to the 2024 United Nations Summit of the Future.

I submit this evidence to highlight the profound international impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act) and, critically, the importance of its associated independent and statutory Commissioner. Although I speak from outside Wales, my perspective offers insight into how this pioneering legislation has shaped global discourse, inspired international legislative reform, and anchored innovative tools supporting systemic change and intergenerational thinking in public policy.

Summary of Key Points

- The Future Generations Commissioner's Office is a globally recognised leader in intergenerational governance, youth engagement, and public policy innovation.
- The Act is regarded internationally as a benchmark for future generations governance, with its statutory Commissioner ensuring credibility, consistency, and long-term accountability.
- Its model has directly informed legislative developments in other jurisdictions, including Australia.
- The small but high-performing team in Wales has achieved remarkable global impact with modest resources, demonstrating extraordinary value for money.

1. A Global Benchmark for Future Generations Policy

The Welsh Act remains the world's most advanced legislative framework for sustainable development and intergenerational fairness. Its success lies not only in its ambition but in its implementation structure, particularly the statutory nature of the Future Generations Commissioner, which protects the integrity of the role from political interference. This independence ensures continuity, fosters public trust, and safeguards the Act's purpose from the political tides of the day. The Act's holistic framework and practical "ways of working" continue to offer inspiration and replicable tools for other governments seeking to embed long-term thinking in decision-making.

2. Catalysing Global Legislative Reform

The Welsh model has sparked significant momentum globally. In jurisdictions such as Australia, Ireland, Scotland, and the Balearic Islands, legislation has either been introduced or actively developed based on the Welsh framework. In Australia, the [Wellbeing of Future Generations Bill](#), introduced in February 2025, was closely shaped by the Welsh example and the strategic guidance provided by both current and former Commissioners.

3. Driving Innovation in Youth Engagement and Policy Tools

Between 2022 and 2024, Foundations for Tomorrow collaborated with the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to co-develop:

- [The Future Generations Leadership Accelerator](#), which has supported over 1,000 young people globally to lead on intergenerational fairness.
- [The Policy Leader Toolkit](#), designed for public sector decision-makers embedding long-term thinking in governance.

These tools have reinforced Wales' status as a global leader in both engaging the next generation and enabling current leaders to embrace intergenerational innovation.

4. Sustained International Influence and Statutory Strength

The strength of the Welsh model is in part due to the statutory independence of the Commissioner. This design feature distinguishes it from other mechanisms that rely on political favour or temporary mandates. It engenders trust across civil society, builds legitimacy across political cycles, and has enabled the Welsh Office to speak with authority on the global stage.

As someone who has sought strategic advice from both Sophie Howe and Derek Walker and their teams, I can attest to the enduring value their independence brings, allowing them to challenge, guide, and inspire without constraint. This statutory foundation is essential for the continuity and credibility of future generations work, and should be protected and strengthened in any future reform.

5. A Small Team with Global Reach: Extraordinary Value for Money

One of the most remarkable features of Wales' leadership in this field is that it has been delivered by a relatively small team. Despite modest resourcing, the impact has been profound both locally, by influencing policy and practice across government and globally by inspiring new laws, building a movement, and positioning Wales as a credible authority on intergenerational governance.

The return on investment is exceptional, with Wales reaping reputational, diplomatic, and strategic benefits. It has become a lighthouse for countries around the world, proving that visionary leadership and meaningful systems change are possible.

Conclusion

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is an example of what is possible when long-term thinking is embedded with integrity and purpose. I submit this evidence in support of upholding and further strengthening the Act and the Commissioner's role, both for the benefit of Wales, and for the growing global community seeking to follow in its footsteps.