Consultation Bulletin – week ending 21 October 2011

Newly received this week				
Source	**Title/link**	**Summary**	**Issue date**	**Deadline for Response**
National Assembly for Wales - Petitions Committee	Wales Peace Institute	The Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales has received the following petition: 'We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to investigate the potential for and practicality of Wales having a Peace Institute concerned with Peace and Human Rights, comparable with those supported by state governments in Flanders, Catalonia and elsewhere in Europe.' Do you feel that the action called for is reasonable and/or feasible?	19/10/2011	14/12/2011
DEFRA	The Wine Regulations 2011	These Regulations are the result of the 2008 EU Wine Reform where the UK secured major concessions for UK wine producers. They provide a basis for the UK to enforce the rules of the EU Wine Regime and ensure wine on sale in the UK has been produced correctly and is sold in a way that does not mislead the consumer. These Regulations will apply to the whole of the UK with revised application of the wine rules to provide for an improved balance of sanctions that can be applied where offences have been committed, and more relevant powers made available to enforcement authorities. They also embrace the wishes of UK producers by providing a basis for the amendment of the existing wine quality schemes in England and Wales by now recognising sparkling wines and safeguarding the reputation of UK wines as a whole. This is a joint consultation by Defra, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland, Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.	19/10/2011	22/11/2011
Welsh Government	Cosmetic piercing of young people	The Welsh Government is committed to improving the health of people in Wales. This consultation meets a key action in the Programme for Government: 'consult on the need to introduce legislation to ensure parental consent for cosmetic piercing procedures carried out on young people'. We are thinking about introducing a new law which will cover the following key areas: 1. The need for a parent or guardian to give their permission (both in writing and through attendance at the piercing appointment) before a young person below a certain age can have a cosmetic piercing (we currently think this should be below 16). 2. A clear age restriction for intimate cosmetic piercings.	18/10/2011	31/01/2012

		3. A standard set of questions which must be asked by the piercer before any cosmetic piercing can be done.		
Welsh Government	Consultation on the draft code of practice to parts 2 and 3 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010	This consultation seeks views on a draft Code of Practice for care and treatment planning. It also covers reassessment for secondary mental health services under the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010. Part 2 of the Measure is concerned with: • the appointment of care coordinators as part of the process of planning and coordinating care; and • care and treatment plans for people receiving secondary mental health services. Part 3 of the Measure is concerned with: • former users of secondary mental health services; and • providing a right for them to refer themselves back to secondary services for assessment directly. The draft code sets out guiding principles and practice guidance for the operation of the Measure.	18/10/2011	16/12/2011
DEFRA	Rabies control strategy	This consultation seeks views on Defra's recently revised and published draft Rabies Control Strategy, which sets out a framework for how an incident or outbreak of rabies in England and/or Wales would be managed. The Control Strategy describes the general control options that have been identified for the most likely scenarios for cases of classical rabies virus and the rationale for such controls. In general we have avoided prescribing exactly how and when individual controls should be applied as we need to retain the necessary flexibility so that each situation can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis appropriate to the particular circumstances. We do however want to understand in a bit more detail the practicalities of the control options as there may be some scope in clarifying the circumstances under which they are more likely to be used, less likely or indeed ruled out altogether. We are specifically seeking views on the use of control options though we welcome general comments on all aspects of the document.	18/10/2011	16/12/2011

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DEFRA	A New Era for the Waterways	A supplementary consultation on certain aspects of the proposed Transfer Order for transferring the functions of British Waterways in England and Wales to a New Waterways Charity and for making consequential provision in Scotland.	12/09/2011	24/10/2011
UK Cabinet Office	Making Open Data Real: A Public Consultation	The Open Data consultation paper sets out Government's proposed approach for Transparency and Open Data Strategy, which is aimed at establishing a culture of openness and transparency in public services. We want to hear from everyone - citizens, businesses, public services themselves, and other interest groups - on how we can best embed a culture of openness and transparency in our public services.	17/08/2011	27/10/2011
Home Office	Consolidation and review of the misuse of drugs regulations 2001	This consultation document seeks your comments on proposals to consolidate and review specific provisions under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 and on the accompanying impact assessment. When responding please state whether you are responding as an individual or whether you are representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.	04/08/2011	28/10/2011
Environment Agency	Draft Environment Agency drought plans	The purpose of this consultation is to share our plans for drought management across England and Wales and gather people's views on how we intend to respond to the impact of drought.	12/09/2011	28/10/2011
Welsh Government	Consultation on Right to Buy Guidance	The Housing (Wales) Measure 2011 was passed in the National Assembly for Wales on 22 March 2011. It was approved by Her Majesty in Privy Council on 10 May 2011. We are consulting on guidance for local housing authorities in the event they wish to apply to suspend the Right to Buy and related rights in areas of housing pressure.	28/07/2011	31/10/2011
Welsh Government	Changes to the Blue Badge Scheme in Wales	This consultation details our plan for a new Blue Badge and seeks views on our proposals for the Blue Badge fee, assessment of eligibility and enforcement issues. The Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Scheme ('the Scheme') provides a vital lifeline to disabled people in Wales. The Badge provides the holder with significant independence and helps improve quality of life by enabling the Badge holder to access important services. Seventy-five per cent of Badge holders say that they would go out less often if they did not have a Badge.	09/08/2011	31/10/2011

Welsh Government	Proposal for a Regulation to amend the Foods for Particular Nutritional Uses Framework	This consultation seeks your views on the European Commission's proposal to revise the legislation on specific foodstuffs. The proposal abolishes the concept of dietetic foods. It provides for a limited number of defined categories of food that are considered as essential for certain vulnerable groups of people, i.e.: • foods intended for infants and young children and • food for patients under medical supervision.	08/08/2011	31/10/2011
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT: consultation on the next steps for moving VAT online	This consultation covers changes to the operation of VAT to move further transactions online, and the assistance into digital that will support those moves. HMRC proposes that from 1 April 2012, for VAT registered businesses with a turnover below £100,000, it will be compulsory to file VAT returns online and make electronic payment of any VAT due. In support of the digital by default agenda, online will also become the default channel for all businesses for VAT registration, deregistration and changes to registered details but these will not be mandated at this stage. Assistance into digital for those who need it is an integral part of the Government's digital agenda. This consultation therefore seeks views on where digital assistance may be required, and what forms that assistance should take.	08/08/2011	31/10/2011
National Assembly for Wales - Enterprise and Business Committee	Inquiry into influencing the modernisation of European procurement policy	The Committee is inviting views on the following questions: • How effectively are the current UK procurement Regulations working in Wales, both from a supplier/contractor and from a purchasing authority perspective? • To what extent is value for money being achieved for purchasing authorities? • How should the EU procurement Directives be modernised from the perspectives of Welsh suppliers/contractors and purchasing authorities?	27/09/2011	01/11/2011
National Assembly for Wales - Petitions Committee	Various	**The Petitions Committee is currently consulting on the following petitions:** • P-04-329 Control of noise nuisance from wind turbines • P-04-331 Filming and Recording of Council Meetings • P-04-332 Local Authority Spending Details over £500 • P-04-333 Stop neglect and abandonment of horses and ponies by enforcement of microchipping laws	28/09/2011	03/11/2011

Health & Safety Executive	Proposals on Revised Control of Asbestos Regulations	This consultation sets out HSE's proposals to introduce revised Control of Asbestos Regulations to implement the changes required to comply with the European Commission's reasoned opinion on the UK Government's transposition of Directive 83/477/EEC as amended by 2003/18/EC on the protection of workers from the risks of exposure to asbestos at work. The reasoned opinion confirms the European Commission's view that the UK has not fully implemented Article 3(3) of the Directive which provides for the exemption of some types of lower risk work with asbestos from three requirements of the Directive: notification of work; medical examinations; and record keeping. The required changes mean in future fewer types of lower risk work will be exempt from the three requirements. Views are sought on: the proposals; the guidance to be produced to explain how the changes will work in practice; and the impact on business.	05/09/2011	04/11/2011
National Assembly for Wales - Environment and Sustainability Committee, Common Agriculture Policy Task and Finish Group	Inquiry into proposed reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy	The terms of reference for the inquiry are: • To assess the potential impact of the European Commission's proposals for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy on Wales, including its implications for relevant Welsh Government policies • To consider what outcomes would be most beneficial to Wales. • To make recommendations to the Welsh Government on what it should prioritise in its negotiations on the reform process. • To act as a forum for stakeholders in Wales to engage with the debate on the future of the policy. • To influence the wider debate on CAP Reform, the Task and Finish Group will seek to share its conclusions with UK parliamentary bodies, the European Commission and the European Parliament and with other relevant European bodies such as the Committee of the Regions.	11/10/2011	04/11/2011
National Assembly for Wales - Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee	Inquiry into the provision of affordable housing	The terms of reference for the inquiry are: • the effectiveness of public subsidy in delivering affordable housing, in particular Social Housing Grant; • whether alternatives to public subsidy are being fully exploited; • whether the Welsh Government, local authorities and RSLs are effectively utilising their powers to increase both the supply of, and access to, affordable housing; • whether there sufficient collaborative working between local authorities, RSLs, financial institutions and homebuilders; • whether innovative methods of delivering affordable housing such as Community Land Trusts or co-operatives could be promoted more effectively by the Welsh Government.	07/10/2011	04/11/2011

HM Revenue & Customs	Modernising Customs and Excise Law	Proposals for updating the provisions of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 (CEMA) and other customs and excise legislation with a view to simplifying the legislation, closing the tax gap, removing burdens on business and strengthening the UK's borders.	15/08/2011	07/11/2011
Welsh Government	Management proposals for Horse Mussel (Modiolus modiolus) reef off the North Wales coast	Horse mussel reefs are rare habitats that support a high diversity of species. They are considered to be very productive communities within the marine environment. They are listed as a habitat of principle importance for conservation of biological diversity in Wales. This is pursuant to section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.	12/09/2011	07/11/2011
DEFRA	Proposals relating to the common fisheries policy and the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products	On 13th July the European Commission published a package of proposals to reform both the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and its supporting Common Market Organisation (CMO) in fishery and aquaculture products. Some of the changes that have been proposed are potentially far-reaching and could have a significant impact on UK fisheries and the marine environment. The UK is committed to genuine and fundamental reform of the CFP, to achieve healthy fish stocks, a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment.	10/08/2011	10/11/2011
Commission on a Bill of Rights	Do we need a UK Bill of Rights?	The Commission will investigate the creation of a UK Bill of Rights that incorporates and builds on all our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, ensures that these rights continue to be enshrined in UK law, and protects and extend our liberties. It will examine the operation and implementation of these obligations, and consider ways to promote a better understanding of the true scope of these obligations and liberties. It should provide interim advice to the Government on the ongoing Interlaken process to reform the Strasbourg court ahead of and following the UK's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe. It should consult, including with the public, judiciary and devolved administrations and legislatures, and aim to report no later than by the end of 2012.	05/08/2011	11/11/2011

National Assembly for Wales - Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee	Inquiry into the future outlook for the media in Wales	**Term's of Reference for the inquiry are:** "To look at the future outlook for various media platforms in Wales by exploring: • the current state of the media in Wales and how new technology and other developments are impacting on this, in the context of continuing concerns about the future of the Welsh broadcast and print media; • what the priorities should be from a Welsh perspective as the UK Government brings forward proposals for its *Communications Bill*; • the opportunities for new media business models to be built in Wales; and • what the Welsh Government is doing to implement the Hargreaves report recommendations and what other steps could be taken to strengthen the media in Wales in terms of content and plurality of provision."	29/09/2011	11/11/2011
DEFRA	Government proposal to abolish the Inland Waterways Advisory Council	This consultation seeks views on the proposed abolition of the Inland Waterways Advisory Council as a statutory Non Departmental Public Body, as provided for under the Public Bodies Bill currently before Parliament, following the Government's Arms Length Body Review.	22/08/2011	14/11/2011
National Assembly for Wales - Enterprise and Business Committee	Inquiry into the draft legislative proposals EU Structural Funds for 2014-2020	The Committee is interested in people's views on: • what the European Commission's proposals could mean for Wales; • what the Welsh Government's priorities should be in its negotiations to ensure a beneficial outcome for Wales; • how Wales can ensure that its views inform the negotiation process.	10/10/2011	14/11/2011
Welsh Government	Improving the planning appeals process	We want to make changes to the existing planning appeals system in Wales. These changes will simplify the appeals process and bring cost and time savings. They will also ensure that the procedures can deal with appeals of differing complexities. Our proposed changes include: • a fast track system for householder appeals; • Enabling the Planning Inspectorate to decide the appeal method for each case, based on Ministerially approved and published criteria; • Extending the power to apply for costs to be awarded to appeals dealt with by written representations; • Making it easier to correct error(s) in appeal decisions; • Giving inspectors authority to determine appeals for old minerals permissions; • Changing payment arrangements of enforcement application	17/08/2011	17/11/2011

		fees when appeals are lodged so that the entire fee is paid to the local planning authority; • Requiring that Statements of Common Ground are submitted earlier; and • a formal process and guidance for time tables for complex inquiries.		
National Assembly for Wales - Petitions Committee	Various	**The Petitions Committee is currently consulting on the following petitions:** • P-04-335 The Establishment of a Welsh Cricket Team • P-04-336 A Welsh-language daily newspaper for Wales	10/10/2011	17/11/2011
UK Cabinet Office	Big Lottery Fund - Consultation on proposed policy directions	The Government wishes to consult on proposed policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund. Welcoming the consultation, The Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude said: "The voluntary, community and social enterprise sector is at the heart of this Government's mission to build a Big Society. The Big Society is about helping people to come together to improve their own lives. It's about putting more power in people's hands, opening up public services and encouraging social action.	22/08/2011	18/11/2011

British Institute of Human Rights	Your chance to comment on the Government's human rights record Please send any comments on this consultation to **jmcquade@wcva.org.uk**	Every four years the UK Government is subject to a review of its human rights record by the United Nations (UN). The UK Government's next review takes place in 2012 and the UN is looking for input now from voluntary and community organisations about the human rights situation in the UK. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has commissioned the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) to raise awareness of the UN's human rights review process and to encourage organisations from across society to submit their comments to the UN. You are invited to join us at one of the three events taking place in central venues in Cardiff (20 October), Leeds (31 October) and London (2 November), to find out more about the UN's human rights review process and how to submit comments yourself, or join BIHR's submission. The events in Cardiff and Leeds will run from 10am-4pm, and the event in London from 12.30-4.00pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at all events. The UN's human rights review is conducted by the UN Human Rights Council and provides an important opportunity to hold the UK Government to account for its domestic human rights record. It is a formal process, and voluntary and community sector organisations (VCS) and others are invited to submit evidence to inform the review. The information provided to the UN by independent reliable sources allows for the formulation of smart, relevant and time-bound recommendations for the Government to improve the human rights of all in the country.	N/A	21/11/2011
National Assembly for Wales - Children and Young People Committee	Inquiry into the Implementation of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009	The Committee will examine: • the effect that the implementation of the *Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009* has had on young people aged 14-19 years; • whether the implementation of the *Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009* has had any effect on the numbers of young people choosing to stay on in education or training after the end of compulsory education at age 16; • whether young people aged 14-19 have a wider choice for academic and vocational courses as a result of the *Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009;* • what practical problems have been addressed in order to implement the *Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009.*	12/10/2011	22/11/2011

Welsh Government	Proposed Amendments to the Commons (Severance of Rights) (Wales) Order 2007/583	The Commons (Severance of Rights)(Wales) Order 2007/583 allows leasing of rights of common for a maximum of three years. This was intended as a temporary measure, to be reviewed in due course. The consultation asks whether the Order should now be amended, and proposes various options. Land owners, commoners and other interested parties are asked to give their views on the options for amendment. The information you send to us will be published in a summary of responses to this consultation. Normally the names and addresses (or part of them) of their authors are published along with the response. If you do not wish to be identified as the author of your response, please state this clearly when you write or e-mail.	05/09/2011	25/11/2011
Welsh Government	Fire and Rescue Authorities - Publication of Improvement Plans	The purpose of this consultation is to consult on a proposed change to the requirement for the publication of Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) Improvement Plans.	03/10/2011	28/11/2011
Department for Culture Media and Sport	Consultation on proposal to examine the deregulation of Schedule One of the Licensing Act 2003	The Licensing Act 2003 brought together nine separate outdated licensing related regimes, and created instead a single Act that controlled alcohol supply and sale, late night refreshment, and "regulated entertainment". In tidying up the old licensing regimes new problems were created for many wishing to host entertainment events.	10/09/2011	03/12/2011
Welsh Government	Welsh Health Survey Outputs	The Welsh Health Survey provides unique information about the health and health-related lifestyles of people living in Wales. It covers a range of health-related issues, including health status, lifestyle and health behaviours, and health service use. The 2010 annual report was published on September 13th 2011, along with a local authority bulletin and additional online tables and charts.	13/09/2011	06/12/2011
Department for Business Innovation and Skills	Mutualisation of the Post Office	Consultation that explores what a mutual Post Office Ltd might look like. It seek feedback for more clarity on the issues that the Government would need to take into account before mutualisation could be achieved. This consultation builds on the comprehensive report Mutual Options for Post Office Ltd commissioned by Government and published in May 2011 by Co-operatives UK. The Government aims to appraise further the case for and shape of a mutualisation.	19/09/2011	12/12/2011

Welsh Government	The Mental Health (Regional Provision) (Wales) Regulations 2012	This consultation seeks your views on regulations which would enable Local Health Boards (LHBs) and local authorities in Wales to enter into regional working arrangements. These bodies (the 'local mental health partners') would be required to: • deliver local primary mental health support services under Part 1 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, and • make arrangements for provision of assessments for former users of secondary mental health services under Part 3 of the Measure. The Regulations have been drafted in a way which recognises and facilitates these regional arrangements. LHBs and local authorities would not then be able to make Part 1 schemes or Part 3 arrangements on a local authority-wide basis as the Measure currently allows. They would be obliged to enter into region-wide schemes and arrangements.	26/09/2011	16/12/2011
Environment Agency	Consultation on our charges for 2012 to 2015	This consultation covers our charging proposals for Environmental Permitting, abstraction and Emissions Trading charging schemes from 2012-2015. We are seeking views from charge payers, trade associations and other interested parties on our major proposals which are: • No change to the rate of charges for the majority of charge payers for two years with a check at the end of the first year (this does not include abstraction charges) • A small number of technical changes that are largely beneficial to industry • A small increase in charges in year 3. We propose to increase abstraction charges each year to fund specific cost pressures.	28/09/2011	21/12/2011
BBC Trust	Service review of BBC Local Radio	BBC Local Radio should deliver up-to-the minute, accurate, impartial and independent news, analysis and insight. It should provide fast and comprehensive coverage of local, UK and international events as they unfold and specialist analysis to put the news in context. The Trust has issued a service licence for BBC Local Radio which sets out what each station is expected to achieve. We want to find out how well you think that BBC Local Radio is meeting these expectations?	06/10/2011	21/12/2011
BBC Trust	Delivering Quality First	In January 2011 the BBC Trust asked BBC management to develop a set of proposals to re-organise the BBC's business and make the savings required by the 2010 licence fee settlement. This public consultation marks the conclusion of the process of internal debate and consultation over those proposals.	06/10/2011	21/12/2011

BBC Trust	Service review of BBC Asian Network	The BBC Asian Network's remit is to provide speech and music output appealing to British Asians, with a strong focus on news and current affairs. It should be primarily in English, but some programming should be provided in a range of South Asian languages. The Trust has issued a service licence for the Asian Network which sets out what the station is expected to achieve. We want to find out how well you think that the station is meeting these expectations?	06/10/2011	21/12/2011
Department for Work and Pensions	Consultation on the abolition and transfer of functions of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	The Government is proposing to: • abolish the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (C-MEC) as a non-departmental public body, and • transfer its functions to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. We will do this using the powers in the Public Bodies Bill, currently before Parliament. This change will enable Ministers to have more direct control, responsibility, and accountability over the: • delivery of child maintenance strategic and operational policy, and • ongoing and future reform of child maintenance. We are seeking views on this proposal. This is a structural change, and the consultation does not imply any change in the services delivered to customers. Please note that we are not seeking views on child maintenance policy issues. The consultation is aimed primarily at those who have a professional relationship with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, although all views are welcome.	10/10/2011	03/01/2012
Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)	CSSIW Engagement Strategy	This consultation paper sets out some ideas about how we can increase the involvement of service users, carers, and people with an interest in social care and social services, but you will have your own ideas that we would like to hear about. We are working with Participation Cymru to make sure that we have direct contact with people over the next six months of the consultation. We will put more information about opportunities to engage with us on our web page in the next few weeks.	05/07/2011	04/01/2012
Welsh Government	White paper: School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill	On 12 July 2011, the First Minister made a statement on the Legislative Programme for the Welsh Government. In that statement he announced that there would be an Education Bill in 2012. This White Paper seeks your views on the proposed legislation for the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill. Versions of this document that will be accessible for children and young people are available.	10/10/2011	05/01/2012

Food Standards Agency	Local Authority Audit Rating Scheme	The Food Standards Agency in Wales is consulting on its proposals to carry out a rolling three-year programme of audits of food and animal feed law enforcement functions of Welsh local authorities. The Food Standards Agency intends to introduce, from April 2012, a rolling three-year programme of audits of the food and animal feed law enforcement functions undertaken by local authorities in Wales. We propose that, in order to increase transparency and accessibility of audit findings, each local authority service receives a grade following the audit. The grade will reflect the findings of the audit process in relation to each local authority's systems, its performance and the outcomes achieved.	05/10/2011	10/01/2012