

Consultation Bulletin - week ending 7 October 2011

Newly received this week

| Source | Title/link | Summary | Issue date | Deadline for Response |
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| 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 |
| National Assembly for Wales - Health and Social Care Committee | Inquiry into Residential Care for Older People | <p>The Committee is eager to hear your views on the inquiry's terms of reference. Please note that this is an opportunity to comment on the draft terms of reference only, not to submit your written evidence. A further call for more detailed written evidence will be issued later this term, once the terms of reference have been agreed. Please also note that the Committee has already agreed to focus the inquiry on residential care for older people and does not wish to extend it beyond this scope.</p> <p>Suggested terms of reference To examine the provision of residential care in Wales and the ways in which it can meet the current and future needs of older people, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the process by which older people enter residential care and the availability and accessibility of alternative services • the capacity of the residential care sector to meet the demand for services from older people in terms of staffing resources and the number of places and facilities. • the quality of residential care services and the experiences of service users and their families; the effectiveness of services at meeting the diversity of need amongst older people; and the management of care home closures. • the effectiveness of the regulation and inspection arrangements for residential care, including the scope for increased scrutiny of service providers' financial viability. • new and emerging models of care provision • the balance of public and independent sector provision, and alternative funding and ownership models, such as those offered by the cooperative and mutual sector | 30/09/2011 | 14/10/2011 |
| National Assembly for Wales - Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee | Inquiry into the future outlook for the media in Wales | <p>Term's of Reference for the inquiry are: "To look at the future outlook for various media platforms in Wales by exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the current state of the media in Wales and how new technology and other developments are impacting on this, in the context of | 29/09/2011 | 11/11/2011 |

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| | | <p>continuing concerns about the future of the Welsh broadcast and print media;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what the priorities should be from a Welsh perspective as the UK Government brings forward proposals for its <i>Communications Bill</i>; • 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.” | | |
| National Assembly for Wales - Petitions Committee | Petition: Filming and Recording of Council Meetings | <p>‘We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to place a statutory requirement on all local authorities in Wales to record, broadcast or livestream all Council meetings which are open to the public, via their existing websites to ensure openness and transparency. This requirement should allow members of the public, as responsible observers, to record or film such meetings without the need for prior permission and to re-use the material freely to provide a direct and wider line of communication to the electorate’.</p> <p>Questions you may wish to consider in responding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you feel that public meetings should be filmed? Why is this important? 2. What are the barriers to public meetings being filmed? 3. Do any of the Standing Orders of Wales’s local authorities specifically prohibit the filming of public meetings? | 28/09/2011 | 03/11/2011 |
| National Assembly for Wales - Petitions Committee | Petition: Local Authority Spending Details over £50 | <p>‘We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to place a statutory requirement on all local authorities in Wales to publish details of all spending over £500 in the interest of openness and transparency. The details should be published online and in a format accessible to the public with the freedom to re-use the data. Many English Councils now publish this information on their websites. The information is already available on various internal council databases so would merely need to be collated centrally and in a form suitable for access and in compliance with the Data Protection Act.. Initial costs would be offset by a reduction in the volume of Freedom of Information requests received by Local Authorities concerning spending details.’</p> <p>Questions you may wish to consider in responding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you feel that local authorities should publish details of spending? If so, should this be mandatory or encouraged as best practice? 2. What are the barriers to providing this information publicly? 3. Do you feel that £500 and over is the appropriate level of spend to be published. | 28/09/2011 | 03/11/2011 |

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| <p>Department for work and pensions</p> | <p>Housing Benefit Reform - Supported Housing - public consultation</p> | <p>This consultation seeks views on the Government's proposals to change the way Housing Benefit helps those living in supported housing within the social and voluntary sector with their rent. We are seeking views to inform our policy development as we look to re-design the way in which Housing Benefit helps with the higher rents sometimes faced by those needing support to live independently, such as the elderly or those with disabilities. The public consultation applies to England, Scotland and Wales.</p> <p>The consultation is aimed primarily at those involved in the commissioning, funding and providing of supported housing. We also welcome comments from those needing support to live independently, such as vulnerable older and disabled people, and those who represent their views.</p> | <p>19/07/2011</p> | <p>09/10/2011</p> |
| <p>Ministry of Justice</p> | <p>Strategy for the Secure Estate for Children and Young People in England and Wales</p> | <p>The consultation invites views on a proposed strategy for the under-18 secure estate for the years 2011/12 and 2014/15.</p> <p>It is aimed at individuals and organisations with an interest in the youth justice system and youth custody in particular. This includes secure estate providers, youth justice practitioners and service providers, children's charities and related third sector pressure groups, co-commissioners in health and education, local authority children's services managers, parliamentarians and young people in the youth justice system.</p> | <p>19/07/2011</p> | <p>11/10/2011</p> |
| <p>Ministry of Justice</p> | <p>Public Bodies Bill: reforming the public bodies of the Ministry of Justice</p> | <p>This consultation sets out, and seeks views on, proposals for reform relating to the majority of Ministry of Justice bodies in the Public Bodies Bill.</p> <p>The consultation is aimed particularly at those statutory consultees listed in Clause 10 of the Bill but views are welcomed from others who may have an interest in public bodies reform in the Ministry of Justice.</p> | <p>12/07/2011</p> | <p>11/10/2011</p> |
| <p>Welsh Government</p> | <p>NHS Staffing Statistics</p> | <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek users' views on the above proposal and our other NHS staffing statistics. The reasons and evidence behind the proposal is detailed in the consultation document that can be downloaded from this page. Your contributions will help us to understand the impact these changes could have on the individuals and organisations that use these statistics. The outcome of this consultation will inform our priorities for the years ahead.</p> <p>We will consider user views in full, as in a period of restricted resources, we need to be able to prioritise our activities. This is in line with the Official Statistics Code of Practice which states that effective user engagement is fundamental both to trust in statistics and securing maximum public value.</p> | <p>30/08/2011</p> | <p>11/10/2011</p> |

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| DEFRA | The future of the advisory committee on hazardous substances | This consultation seeks views on (i) the proposed abolition of the Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (ACHS) 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; and (ii) the Government's preferred option to simultaneously reconstitute this body as a new expert scientific committee. We are also seeking views on proposed new Terms of Reference, and a name, for the successor body. | 07/07/2011 | 14/10/2011 |
| National Assembly for Wales - Assembly Commission | Pre-legislative public consultation on Bilingual Services | <p>The National Assembly for Wales Commission (Assembly Commission) is today (3 August 2011) launching a public consultation about a new framework to govern its bilingual services.</p> <p>The (Draft) National Assembly for Wales (Official Languages) Bill would make provision about the use of the Welsh and English languages in proceedings of the National Assembly and in the discharge of the functions of the Assembly Commission.</p> <p>The Bill would place a duty on the Assembly Commission to bring forward a Bilingual Services Scheme specifying the measures it proposes to take in order to comply with its duties as outlined in the Government of Wales Act 2006. Those services were previously modelled on the Welsh Language Act 1993, which has since been replaced by the Welsh Language Measure 2011. In line with fundamental constitutional principles, neither the Assembly nor the Commission are subject to the arrangements of the Measure, so the Assembly Commission decided to explore a new legislative framework to govern its bilingual services.</p> | 03/08/2011 | 14/10/2011 |
| Department for Work and Pensions | Specialist disability employment programmes - public consultation | <p>This consultation seeks views on the recommendations in Liz Sayce's independent report on specialist disability employment programmes "Getting in, staying in and getting on."</p> <p>This public consultation applies to England, Wales and Scotland.</p> <p>We particularly welcome responses from anyone with personal experience of, or an interest in, the Department's employment services for disabled people and people with health conditions, but we would like to hear from anybody who is interested.</p> | 11/07/2011 | 17/10/2011 |

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| DEFRA | Hazardous Waste Consultation | <p>The Hazardous Waste National Policy Statement (NPS) sets out the strategic need and justification of Government policy for the provision of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) for hazardous waste. This will be used to guide decisions on development consent. The purpose of the consultation is to give stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the draft NPS and the framework it sets for those planning decisions. The deadline for response is 20 October 2011.</p> <p>We suggest that you read the consultation letter and consultation document first as these will give you background on the consultation and explain the relationship between all the documents.</p> | 14/07/2011 | 20/10/2011 |
| National Assembly for Wales - Environment and Sustainability Committee, Common Agriculture Policy Task and Finish Group | Inquiry into Proposed reforms to Common Fisheries Policy | <p>The National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee has established a task and finish group to undertake an inquiry into the proposed reforms to the Common Fisheries Policy.</p> <p>The terms of reference for the review are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to assess the potential impact of the Commission's proposals on Wales and the Welsh Fisheries Zone and the to consider the wider implications for Welsh Territorial Seas of the proposals for the European fisheries sector; 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 CFP 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. | 29/09/2011 | 21/10/2011 |
| 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 |

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| Home Office | Consolidation and review of the misuse of drugs regulations 2001 | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 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 | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 09/08/2011 | 31/10/2011 |
| Welsh Government | Proposal for a Regulation to amend the Foods for Particular Nutritional Uses Framework | <p>This consultation seeks your views on the European Commission's proposal to revise the legislation on specific foodstuffs.</p> <p>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.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foods intended for infants and young children and • food for patients under medical supervision. | 08/08/2011 | 31/10/2011 |

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| 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 | <p>The Committee is inviting views on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
| Health & Safety Executive | Proposals on Revised Control of Asbestos Regulations | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 05/09/2011 | 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 |

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| 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 | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 10/08/2011 | 10/11/2011 |
| Commission on a Bill of Rights | Do we need a UK Bill of Rights? | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 05/08/2011 | 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 |

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| <p>Welsh Government</p> | <p>Improving the planning appeals process</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Our proposed changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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. | <p>17/08/2011</p> | <p>17/11/2011</p> |
| <p>UK Cabinet Office</p> | <p>Big Lottery Fund - Consultation on proposed policy directions</p> | <p>The Government wishes to consult on proposed policy directions for the Big Lottery Fund.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>22/08/2011</p> | <p>18/11/2011</p> |
| <p>Welsh Government</p> | <p>Proposed Amendments to the Commons (Severance of Rights) (Wales) Order 2007/583</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Land owners, commoners and other interested parties are asked to give their views on the options for amendment.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>05/09/2011</p> | <p>25/11/2011</p> |

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| <p>Department for Culture Media and Sport</p> | <p>Consultation on proposal to examine the deregulation of Schedule One of the Licensing Act 2003</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>10/09/2011</p> | <p>03/12/2011</p> |
| <p>Welsh Government</p> | <p>Welsh Health Survey Outputs</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>13/09/2011</p> | <p>06/12/2011</p> |
| <p>Department for Business Innovation and Skills</p> | <p>Mutualisation of the Post Office</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>19/09/2011</p> | <p>12/12/2011</p> |
| <p>Welsh Government</p> | <p>The Mental Health (Regional Provision) (Wales) Regulations 2012</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>These bodies (the 'local mental health partners') would be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The Regulations have been drafted in a way which recognises and facilitates these regional arrangements.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>26/09/2011</p> | <p>16/12/2011</p> |

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| Environment Agency | Consultation on our charges for 2012 to 2015 | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>We propose to increase abstraction charges each year to fund specific cost pressures.</p> | 28/09/2011 | 21/12/2011 |
| Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) | CSSIW Engagement Strategy | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | 05/07/2011 | 04/01/2012 |