

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Vikki Howells, AM
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Dear Vikki,

I am writing to you further to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children oral assembly question session on 18 October, during which you asked about progress on securing sign up to the Code of Practice for Ethical Employment in Supply Chains.

Since its launch in March, public sector sign up to the Code has been encouraging. The whole of the Higher Education sector signed up in July, and the four Welsh police forces signed up this month. The Welsh Government and Cardiff Council are also signed up along with Transport Wales, two housing associations and a number of Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies.

In July, the Welsh Local Government Association's Executive Board agreed a proposal that all local authorities should sign up to the Code by the end of 2017. Several authorities have recently indicated that they are working to achieve sign up by Christmas.

Business sign up is increasing steadily with over 30 organisations formally signed up to date and more are in the process of doing so.

The National Procurement Service (NPS) is actively promoting the Code during tendering activity, asking prospective suppliers to commit to its principles. The 700 suppliers who are already appointed to NPS frameworks are being strongly encouraged to sign up to Code.

I spoke at the Supply Chain Sustainability School on 2 October. We are working with the School, which supports business improvements in the construction sector, to develop

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

training material and guidance to support sign up to the Code from contractors and their supply chain partners.

On 9 November, two workshops on the practicalities of signing up to the Code will be held at the Procurex conference in Cardiff. This will provide both buying organisations and suppliers with further support and advice to help them to adopt the principles of the Code.

I am pleased that we have led the way in using public procurement as a lever for tackling unfair, unethical and illegal employment practices and we actively share our experience to encourage a UK-wide approach to tackling these issues.

Welsh Government officials have shared the details of the Code with counterparts in UK Government, Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive. We have also promoted it at events in London hosted by the Chartered Institute for Procurement and Supply; in Westminster hosted by Transparency in the Supply Chain; and delivered a presentation to the DVLA.

The plans to secure further sign up will continue to be driven forward and these will be supported and considered by social partners at the Workforce Partnership Council.

All best wishes,

Mark.

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cc Carl Sargeant, AM, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children