

Hannah Blythyn AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair of the Equality & Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

6 February 2022

Dear Jenny,

### **Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill**

During the Equality and Social Justice Committee on 23 January 2022, when the Stage 2 amendments to the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill were considered, I undertook in relation to amendment 72 regarding worker representation on the Social Partnership Council (SPC) to share the written commitment I had received from Wales TUC concerning the nomination of members of non-affiliated trade unions. I attach a copy of the letter from Shavanah Taj.

I hope this provides assurance to the Committee that Wales TUC's process for nominating individuals to the SPC will include all trade unions in Wales, not just those affiliated to the TUC.

Yours sincerely,

**Hannah Blythyn AS/MS**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Partnership

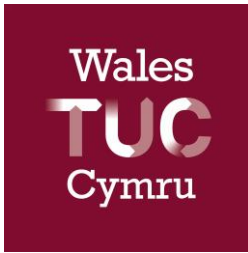
Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Hannah.Blythyn@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Hannah.Blythyn@gov.wales)

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.



1 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9SD

1 Heol y Gadeirlan  
Caerdydd  
CF11 9SD

Hannah Blythyn, Deputy Minister for Social Partnership  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

19 January 2023

Dear Hannah,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 January 2023 regarding the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill and the nomination process for worker representatives to the Social Partnership Council (SPC). We welcome the opportunity to clarify that it is the Wales TUC's intention to seek nominees from *all* trade unions in Wales, not just those affiliated to the TUC.

Wales TUC is the only suitable structure to work with the entire union movement to conduct elections for the worker representative nominees to the Social Partnership Council, as it is imperative that the nomination process remains independent from government. This is a role we already hold for the trade union delegation to the Workforce Partnership Council, where we take the role of secretariat for all trade unions recognised in the devolved public sector (including trade unions which are not affiliated to the TUC, such as the RCN, BMA and ASCL).

As with this, we will establish a SPC union side as the democratic group to determine union-side nominations to the SPC, and protocols for how those with SPC seats engage with the wider union-side and existing sectoral arrangements. This will include arrangements to ensure that smaller trade unions are not excluded from the process as well as arrangements to ensure that the membership represents the diversity and other characteristics of Wales's workforce.

While we cannot pre-determine who the union side nominations will be and which trade unions they are associated with (as this will be determined by trade unions themselves, as the worker representatives), we would expect non-affiliated trade unions to be included as part of the list of nominees presented to the First Minister.

Yours sincerely,

**Shavanah Taj**  
General Secretary  
Wales TUC