# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE** | **A More Equal Wales – Commencing the Socio-economic Duty** |
| **DATE** | **16 July 2020** |
| **BY** | **Jane Hutt, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip** |

On 11 March this year I announced my intention to commence the Socio-economic Duty in Wales on 29 September 2020.

The impact of Covid 19 has made it necessary for all of us to reprioritise our business to reflect the unprecedented nature of the crisis, but I am now in a position to confirm that the Socio-economic Duty will be commenced this Senedd term, with a coming into force day of 31 March 2021.

Our communities are facing unprecedented challenges as a result of the Covid 19 outbreak. All of us will be aware, that certain groups are being affected more than others, including those who already experience inequalities as a result of socio-economic disadvantage.

Commencing the Duty will be a key mechanism in supporting the most vulnerable in our society and something which will be extremely important in our continued response to Covid-19.

To support relevant public bodies in preparing for the future commencement of the duty, the Welsh Government published non statutory guidance on the 1 April, as well as additional documentation, specifically a factsheet and a ‘frequently asked questions’ document. All of which can be accessed here - [https://gov.wales/socio-economic-duty](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgov.wales%2Fsocio-economic-duty&data=02%7C01%7CShane.Williams%40gov.wales%7C2e47900ace1449906d3908d80d52c69b%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C637273996451483085&sdata=FhjGIjqiWMyDrNewVc6G3rzrxlS2UOIp9drPTBb81uU%3D&reserved=0).

The guidance has been informed by feedback received through the consultation and the engagement events held across Wales. It has been co-produced with representatives of the bodies expected to be captured by the duty, and the TUC, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Equality and Human Rights Commission.