

Working a shorter week

A report about what we think needs to be done



This document was written by the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**. It is an Easy Read version of 'A Future Fit for Wales: a shorter working week for all (Key findings and messages)'.

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How to use this document



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Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 7**.



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Contents

	Page
Introduction.....	4
Hard words.....	7

Introduction



My name is Sophie Howe. I am the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**. It is my job to look after **future generations**.

Future generations are the people who live in Wales in the future.



We think a shorter working week could have a lot of benefits for Wales.

To achieve it we think 3 things need to be done:

1. Try out working a shorter working week in some jobs in the **public sector**.



The **public sector** means things like hospitals, schools and services run by the government and local authorities.

This would:

- Create lots of new jobs





- Cost only a small amount of what we spend in Wales overall.



- Help reduce staff being off sick in the NHS.



2. Ask businesses to also try out shorter hours.



- A group could be set up where businesses, **trade unions** and politicians work together to talk about a shorter working week.

A **trade union** is an organisation who try and make sure workers are treated well by their employers.



Studies show that most Welsh companies could afford to do it.



3. Work with **trade unions** to help them talk to businesses about working a shorter week.



- It is important to make sure workers have a say about the shorter working week.



- **Trade unions** play an important role in making changes.

What people have told us:



- Most people in Wales think a shorter working week is a good idea. And it will help people have more balance between work and life.



- Just over half of people told us they think trying it out is a good idea.



- More than half of Welsh people said they would like to work a 4 day week or less.

Hard Words

Public sector

The public sector means things like hospitals, schools and services run by the government and local authorities.

Trade union

A trade union is an organisation who try and make sure workers are treated well by their employers.