

Welsh Co-operative and Mutuals Commission Call for Evidence

Molly Scott Cato

A call for evidence for the Welsh Co-operative and Mutuals Commission with a deadline for responses of 19 April 2013.

Most students of co-operatives know that Robert Owen, the father of co-operation, was a Welshman. Many others have heard of the inspiring story of Tower Colliery, a worker-owned colliery in the South Wales Valleys. Now the Welsh Government has established a Co-operative Commission to help encourage the growth of the co-operative economy in Wales as a response to the crisis of capitalism and the accelerating cost of and demand for public services.

The Commission is calling for evidence from around the world and from a variety of economic and social sectors about what works to support and develop co-operative enterprise. Please help by sending a summary of successful examples from your experience and from your country.

Particularly useful would be evidence of:

- Legal structures that support co-operative and mutual development.
- Examples of fiscal frameworks of support such as tax advantages in return for economic democracy within enterprises.
- Examples of co-operatives that have been able to innovate as a result of their governance type.
- An account of how the state — whether national or local — has been able to support the development of co-operatives effectively.
- Information about co-operative education, particularly within mainstream education systems.

How to Give Evidence

Views and suggestions can be submitted in one of the following ways:

- Email: Co-opandMutualsCommission@wales.gsi.gov.uk on the Commission website (link on right hand side). Please send a short summary of what works as an email attachment.
- Post: Welsh Co-operative and Mutuals Commission, c/o Welsh Government, QED Centre, Main Avenue, Trefforest Estate, Pontypridd, CF37 5YR.
- Twitter: [@Coopmutualwales](#) (External link)—use to link us to your research findings published elsewhere.
- LinkedIn: The Welsh Co operative and Mutuals Commission LinkedIn group (External link) allows members to share knowledge, provide feedback and discuss the issues being discussed by the Commission.

The deadline for responses is 19 April 2013 and the Commission anticipates providing a draft report to the Minister in the autumn.

The Author

Molly Scott Cato is Professor of Strategy and Sustainability to Roehampton University and a member of the Welsh Co-operative Commission.

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