

Easy Read



# Know Your Rights

## Your guide to the Socio-Economic duty



This leaflet was written by **Disability Wales**. It is an easy read version of “**Know your rights Use your rights Live your rights**’.

March 2022

# How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 19**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Disability Wales**. For more information contact:

**Website:** [www.disabilitywales.org](http://www.disabilitywales.org)

**Email:** [info@disabilitywales.org](mailto:info@disabilitywales.org)

**Phone:** 02920 887 325



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).

# Contents

Page

Introduction.....	4
About our work.....	5
The Socio-Economic duty .....	7
Know your rights .....	9
Use your rights .....	13
A real life story .....	15
More information.....	18
Hard words.....	19

# Introduction



This booklet has been written by **Disability Wales**.



This booklet is for disabled people and disabled people's organisations.

## Equality



This booklet gives information about **the Socio-Economic duty**. But it is not legal advice.



There are 8 booklets in total. Each booklet has information about a different law.



This booklet was correct in January 2021. But **the Socio-Economic duty** might change in the future.

# About our work



We work hard to protect the **rights** of disabled people.



**Rights** are the things you are allowed to do. For example, you have the right to get married and the right to vote.

**Rights** tell us how we should be treated. For example, you have the right to be treated with respect.

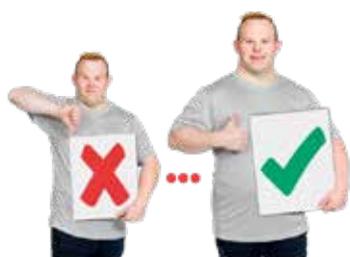
Other people have **rights** too. For example, you must treat other people with respect.



In 2020, we asked disabled people in Wales about their **rights**.



A lot of disabled people told us their **rights** were not well protected in Wales.



A lot of disabled people felt this would not improve in the future.



We want disabled people to know and use their **rights**. And to feel protected.

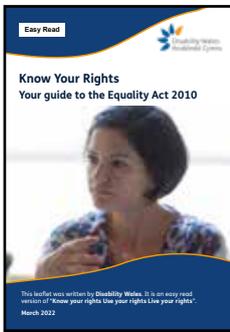


We wrote these 8 booklets to help.

# The Socio-Economic duty



The **Socio-Economic Duty** is part of **The Equality Act 2010**.



You can find out more about **The Equality Act 2010** in **Know Your Rights – Your guide to the Equality Act 2010**.

The **Socio-Economic Duty** says that people who live in **poverty** are more likely to:



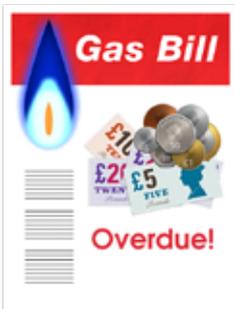
- do badly in school



- have worse health



- die at a younger age



**Poverty** is not having enough money to pay your bills, to feed yourself and your family, to heat your home, to buy the things you need and to get around.



The **Socio-Economic Duty** wants to help people who live in **poverty** to have better lives.

# Know your rights

The **Socio-Economic Duty** has rules for **public bodies**.



**Public bodies** are services that are run for the public. For example, the NHS, local authorities, national parks, or fire service.



The **Socio-Economic Duty** says **public bodies** must talk to people living in **poverty**.



**Public bodies** should find out how their decisions affect people living in **poverty**.



This will help **public bodies** make better decisions about their services.



**Public bodies** need to prove that they are sticking to the **Socio-Economic Duty** rules.



Disabled people are more likely than non-disabled people to live in **poverty**.

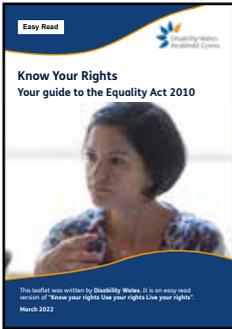


**Public bodies** must consider disabled people when making big decisions.



**Public bodies** must also consider people with **protected characteristics**.

**Protected characteristics** are things about people that are protected by law. Like disability or gender.



You can find out more about **protected characteristics** in **Know Your Rights - Your guide to the Equality Act 2010**.



**Public bodies** should work with disabled people and **disabled people's organisations**.



This will help **public bodies** make better decisions for disabled people.

The **public bodies** that must follow the **Socio-Economic Duty** are:



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

- Welsh ministers
- local authorities
- local health boards



- the NHS
- special health authorities in Wales



- fire and rescue authorities
- national park authorities
- Welsh revenue authority.

# Use your rights



The **Socio-Economic Duty** does not give you any new **rights**.



But if a **public body** doesn't follow the **Socio-Economic Duty**, you can make a complaint.



You can also make a claim against the **public body**. This kind of claim is called a **judicial review claim**.



The **public body** will then have to prove that they followed the **Socio-Economic Duty**.



**Public bodies** can't be forced by law to follow the **Socio-Economic Duty**. But the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** will push them to do the right thing.



You can find out more about the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** from the **Know Your Rights – More Information booklet**.

# A real life story

**A South Wales group of people with visual impairments versus a South Wales Borough Council [2011]**

## The story



A Council wanted to make disabled people with Blue Badges pay for council car parks.



The Council didn't talk to local disabled groups about it first.



A visual impairment group wrote to the council to complaint.



They said the council was breaking the **Equality Act**.



They said the council should have talked to disabled people first. To see how they might be affected.



They said a lot of disabled people were poor. And would find it hard to pay.

## What happened next



The visual impairment group contacted **Disability Wales** for help.



The council dropped the idea of car park charges.



This story shows how the council did not follow the **Socio-Economic Duty**. Because they did not talk to local groups first about this decision.



And they did not consider how it would affect disabled people.

# More information

The **Welsh Government's** answers to questions about **Socio-Economic Duty**:

[gov.wales/socio-economic-duty-overview](https://gov.wales/socio-economic-duty-overview)

The **Welsh Government's** guide about **Socio-Economic Duty**:

[gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/commencing-socio-economic-duty-factsheet.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/commencing-socio-economic-duty-factsheet.pdf)

The **Welsh Government's** short guide about **Socio-Economic Duty**:

[gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/socio-economic-duty-supporting-information\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/socio-economic-duty-supporting-information_0.pdf)

Documents that the **Welsh Government** used to help write the **Socio-Economic Duty**:

[gov.wales/equality-act-2010-commencing-socio-economic-duty](https://gov.wales/equality-act-2010-commencing-socio-economic-duty)

The **Welsh Government's** guide for **public bodies**:

<https://gov.wales/socio-economic-duty>

The **Welsh Government's** animation film:

[gov.wales/more-equal-wales-socio-economic-duty](https://gov.wales/more-equal-wales-socio-economic-duty)

The **Welsh Government's** films about real life stories:

[youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHBVoCVw4XZRI-dozMDNNT4hdfb3EBKq](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHBVoCVw4XZRI-dozMDNNT4hdfb3EBKq)

# Hard words

## Poverty

Poverty is not having enough money to pay your bills, to feed yourself and your family, to heat your home, to buy the things you need and to get around.

## Protected characteristics

Protected characteristics are things about people that are protected by law. Like disability or gender.

## Public bodies

Public bodies are services that are run for the public. For example, the NHS, local authorities, national parks, or fire service.

## Rights

Rights are the things you are allowed to do. For example, you have the right to get married and the right to vote.

Rights tell us how we should be treated. For example, you have the right to be treated with respect.

Other people have rights too. For example, you must treat other people with respect.

