

Welcome to the first monthly e-newsletter from Consumer Focus Wales.

Consumer Focus Wales is the new statutory organisation campaigning for a fair deal for Consumers in Wales. Created through the merger of three consumer champions – energywatch Wales, Postwatch Wales and the Welsh Consumer Council, we are committed to being the powerful voice of the consumer in Wales.

Following the appointment of Senior Director Maria Battle in March, we are stepping up our drive to get a fair deal for consumers in Wales. Consumer interests have become more important than ever during the recession, as people are increasingly conscious of the need to get value for their money and make sure their voices are heard.

During April we have put the consumer perspective in to a number of Government initiatives. We responded to an Assembly consultation on Community Health Councils, calling for them to be more visible to NHS patients, and submitted evidence on proposals to give the Assembly law-making powers over the Welsh Language to both the Assembly's Legislative Scrutiny Committee and Parliament's Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

In the coming month, we are gearing up to launch a joint campaign with Consumer Direct Wales and Digital UK, informing consumers of how to avoid possible scams around digital switchover. We will be bringing forward important research on GM crops, developing our work on tackling fuel poverty as well as collaborating with the Bevan foundation on a project to assess the 'poverty premium' paid by some of the most vulnerable in our society, for the everyday services many of us take for granted.

You can find out more about our work and campaigns on our website:

<http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk/wales>

Forthcoming events

- May 20 Meeting of the National Assembly cross-party group on fuel poverty with Consumer Focus Wales and NEA Cymru

- May 21 Consumer Focus Wales board meeting, venue tbc.
Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers.

News from Consumer Focus Wales

[The salty, sugary secret inside many shop sandwiches](#) (from Western Mail, April 23)

Consumer Focus Wales calls for more food outlets to adopt schemes similar to the Food Standard Agency's traffic light scheme, helping consumers find out how much salt is in their meals.

[Poverty costs families a £1,000 penalty](#) (from Western Mail, April 9)

Maria Battle explains why the issue of financial inclusion has become more important than ever.

[Sustainable shopping call](#) (from Consumer Focus Wales website)

On the anniversary of the first time a banana was spotted in the UK, Consumer Focus Wales calls for supermarkets to do more to help shoppers make sustainable choices.

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