

Welsh Parliament

Your Senedd



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament



Our aims

- How Members are elected
- The role of Members of the Senedd
- Ways in which the Senedd holds the Welsh Government to account
- The legislative process
- The ways in which you can get involved and have your say



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

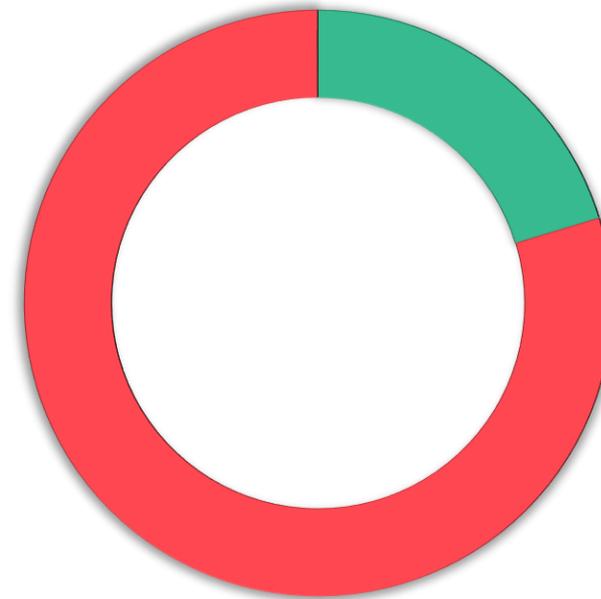
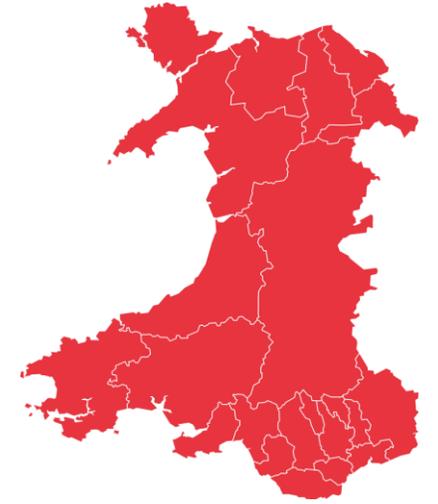


History of the Senedd

Our story

1979 referendum

Council Area	Yes vote	No vote
Clwyd	12.1%	87.9%
Dyfed	28.1%	71.9%
Gwynedd	34.4%	65.6%
Gwent	12.1%	87.9%
Glamorgan (Mid)	20.2%	79.8%
Glamorgan (South)	13.1%	86.9%
Glamorgan (West)	18.7%	81.3%
Powys	18.7%	81.3%



■ Yes (20.3%) ■ No (79.7%)

1997 referendum

Blaenau Gwent

Bridgend

Caerphilly

Cardiff

Carmarthenshire

Ceredigion

Conwy

Denbighshire

Flintshire

Gwynedd

Isle of Anglesey

Merthyr Tydfil

Monmouthshire

Neath Port Talbot

Newport

Pembrokeshire

Powys

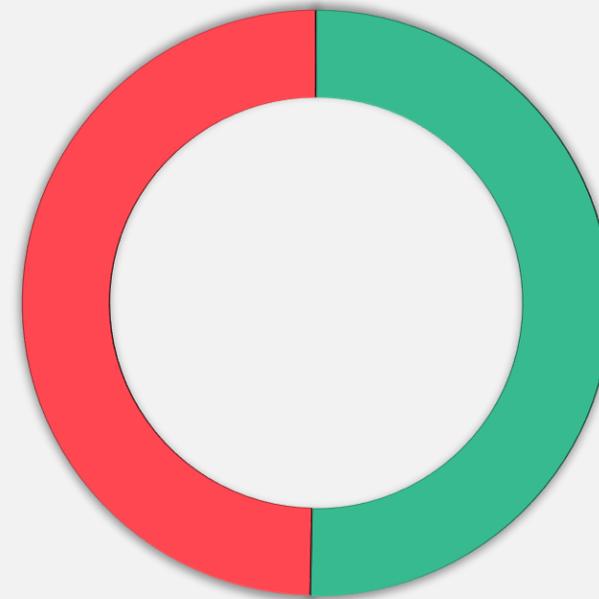
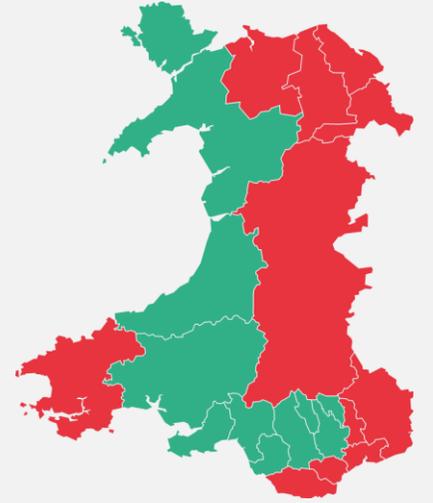
Rhondda Cynon Taf

Swansea

Torfaen

Vale of Glamorgan

Wrexham



■ Yes (50.3%) ■ No (49.7%)

1997 – present day

The National Assembly for Wales met for the first time on the 12 May 1999.

Following sustained efforts by some of the political parties, a total of 24 out of the 60 newly elected Assembly Members were female.

This represented a dramatic change in Welsh politics which had, until that point, been overwhelmingly male dominated.

The Senedd achieved parity of male and female representatives during the 2003 Third Assembly term – a world parliamentary first.



Milestones

2010 - Wales became the first UK country in to introduce a plastic bag levy. This has reduced the use of carrier bags in Welsh shops by around 75%.

2011 - The Welsh electorate voted in a third devolution referendum in favour of extending full primary law-making powers to the National Assembly.



Milestones

2013 - Human Transplantation (Wales) Act passed after one of the most charged debates in its history. This legislation is intended to increase the number of organs available for life-saving surgery.

2017 - The 2017 Wales Act establishes the National Assembly on a new constitutional basis and makes it a permanent part of the UK constitution.



Elections and voting

Your Senedd



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Elections in Wales

We elect three tiers of government in Wales

UK Parliament
Westminster



Welsh Parliament (Senedd)
Cardiff Bay



Local councils
Across Wales



Voting in Senedd elections

6 May 2021

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales

You are eligible to vote in Wales if you are:

- Age 16 or over on election day
- Qualifying foreign national i.e. outside the UK, EU, Ireland, and the Commonwealth
- Resident in Wales
- Registered to vote



How to register to vote?
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Once the votes have been counted...

All new Members of the Senedd will meet in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay for the first time in a meeting called Plenary to decide who will become the Presiding Officer and First Minister.



Electing the Llywydd

All new Members of the Senedd will meet in the Senedd in Cardiff Bay for the first time in a meeting called Plenary to decide who will become the Presiding Officer and First Minister.



The Llywydd

Elin Jones MS

The Llywydd is the highest authority in the Senedd and chairs Plenary, the meeting of all 60 Members, remaining politically impartial at all times.



Electing a First Minister

Leader of the Welsh Government

Election normally follows a general election, resignation, death or dismissal of a former First Minister

Voted in by roll call



First Minister Mark Drakeford MS

As First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS is the Leader of the Welsh Government.



Welsh Parliament and Welsh Government

What's the difference?

Welsh Government

It is formed after an election and is made up from a single or a coalition of the political parties represented in the Senedd.

The Welsh Government includes the First Minister, Welsh Government Ministers, Deputy Ministers and the Council General, supported by civil servants who work across devolved areas.

The Welsh Government: spends money on and running Wales' public services, and making decisions affecting everyone in Wales.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Parliament - Senedd

Welsh Parliament makes laws for Wales, checking on the spending and decisions made by the Welsh Government.

Our job in “holding the Welsh Government to account” means that any decisions the Government wishes to make that impacts the people of Wales must be done in their best interest.



What's the difference?

Welsh Government

Spending money on and running Wales' public services

Making decisions affecting everyone in Wales

Proposing laws for Wales

Senedd

Checking on the spending of the Welsh Government

Scrutinising the decisions made

Consideration and amendment of laws and passing laws for Wales

Powers

What is the Senedd responsible for in Wales?

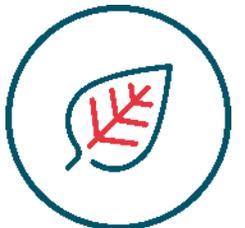
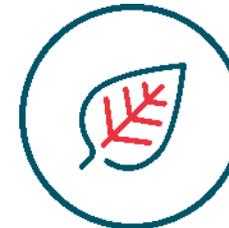
Powers

Wales is a devolved nation.

This means some major areas of life in Wales are the responsibility of Members of the Senedd.

These include:

- Agriculture
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Housing



Reserved matters

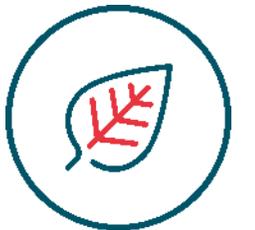
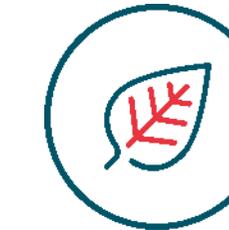
Wales is part of a Union.

Some areas that apply to all parts of the UK remain the responsibility of the UK Parliament and UK Government.

These are 'reserved matters'.

Reserved matters include:

- Currency
- Defence
- Foreign affairs
- Outer space



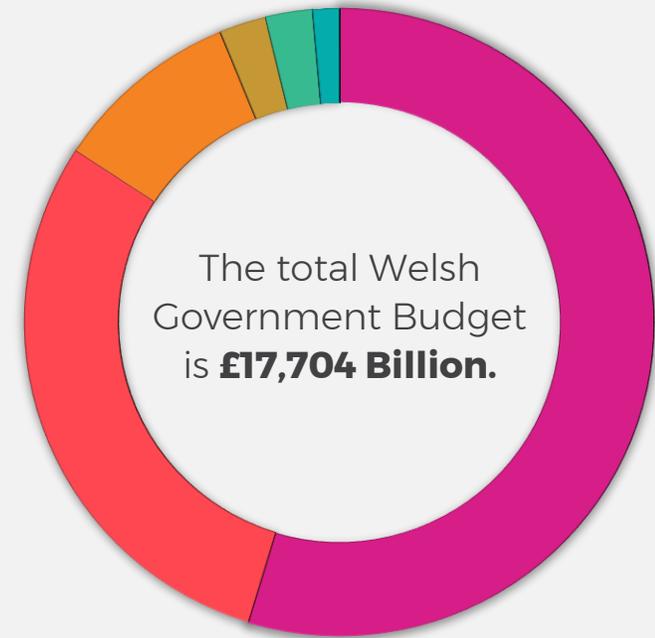
The Welsh Budget

The total Welsh Government Budget is just over **£17 Billion**.

This is the money the Welsh Government spends on everything it needs to do for Wales.

The way it spends this money needs to be agreed in the Senedd, with every Senedd Member having the chance to have their say.

Almost 50% of the budget is spent on Health and Social Care Services in Wales.



- **Health and Social Services (£8,701M)**
- **Housing and Local Government (£4,706M)**
- **Economy and Transport (£1,523M)**
- **Central Services and Administration (£384M)**
- **Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs (£384M)**
- **International Relations and the Welsh Language (£217M)**

Who represents me?

Senedd Members across Wales

Your Senedd Members

Members of the Senedd are elected by the people of Wales and represent all of our constituencies and regions.

- The MSs main role is to scrutinise the Welsh Government by debating policies, asking questions and holding inquiries
- Monday and Friday constituency based
- Within constituency: hold surgeries at their local office
- Tuesday-Thursday based at the Senedd
- At the Senedd: Plenary, committee work, attend meetings

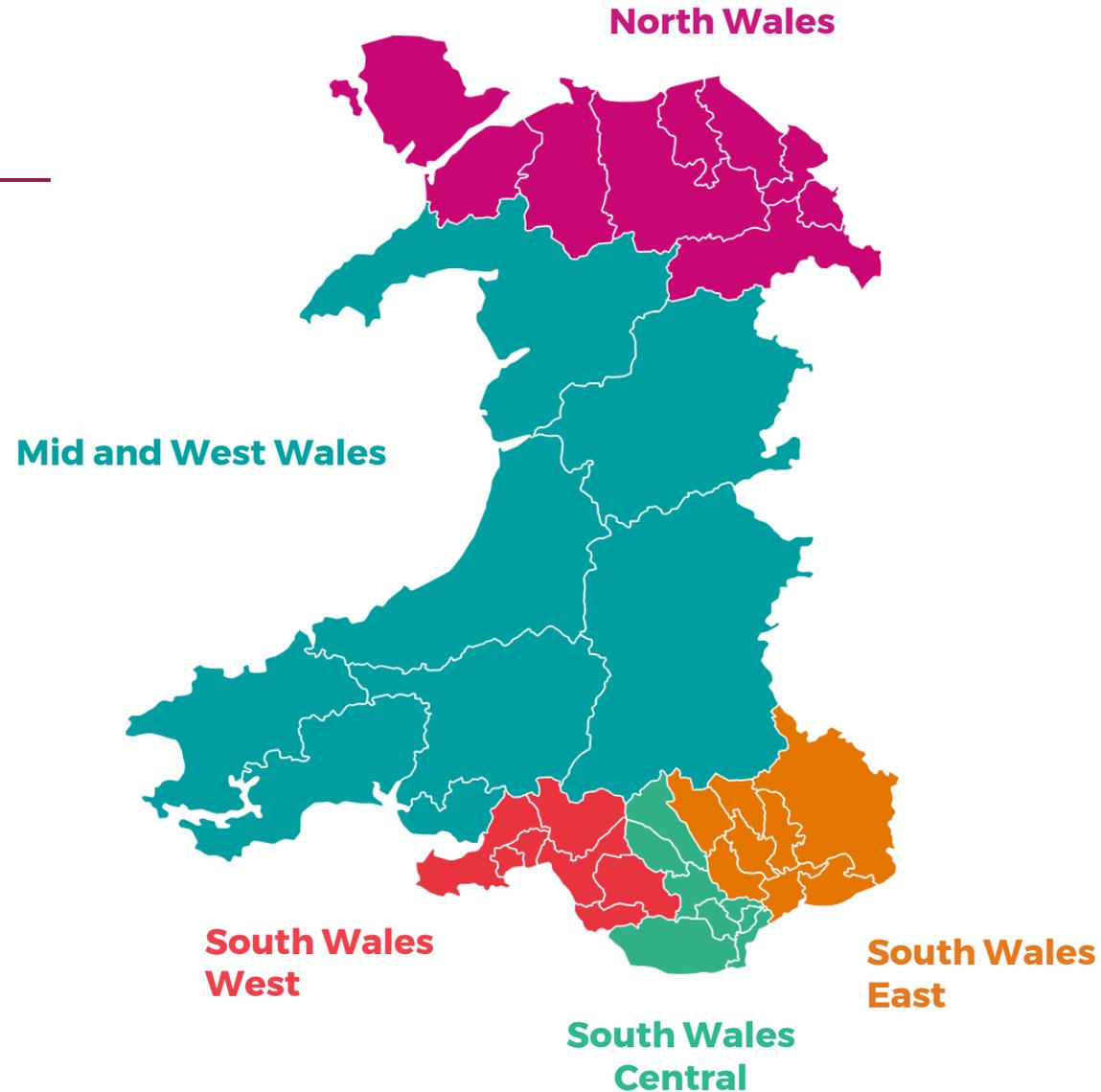


Senedd Members

There are 60 Members of the Senedd

40 Members represent constituencies (or local areas) – outlined in white.

20 Members represent one of the five regions in Wales: four members in each region – **outlined in block colours.**



Who represents you: North Wales

AELODAU RHANBARTHOL REGIONAL MEMBERS



Michelle
Brown



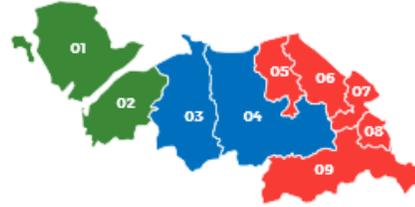
Llyr
Gruffydd



Mark
Isherwood



Mandy
Jones



- Llafur Cymru
—
Welsh Labour
- Y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
—
Welsh Conservatives
- Plaid Cymru
—
The Party of Wales

- Plaid Brexit
—
Brexit Party
- Aelod Annibynnol
—
Independent Member

AELODAU ETHOLAETH CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS



01
Rhun ap Iorwerth
Ynys Môn



02
Siân Gwenllïan
Arfon



03
Janet Finch-Saunders
Aberconwy



04
Darren Millar
Gorllewin Clwyd
—
Clwyd West



05
Ann Jones
Dyffryn Clwyd
—
Vale of Clwyd



06
Hannah Blythyn
Delyn



07
Jack Sargeant
Alun a Glannau Dyfrdwy
—
Alyn and Deeside



08
Lesley Griffiths
Wrecsam
—
Wrexham



09
Ken Skates
De Clwyd
—
Clwyd South

Who represents you: South Wales Central

AELODAU RHANBARTHOL

REGIONAL MEMBERS



Andrew R T
Davies



David
Melding



Neil
McEvoy



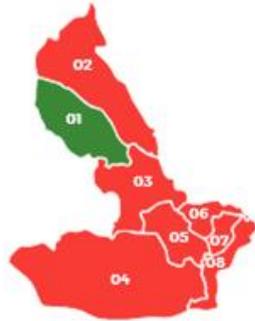
Gareth
Bennett



● Llafur Cymru
—
Welsh Labour

● Y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
—
Welsh Conservatives

● Plaid Cymru
—
The Party of Wales



● Aelod Annibynnol
—
Independent Member

AELODAU ETHOLAETH

CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS



01

Leanne Wood
Rhondda



02

Vikki Howells
Cwm Cynon
—
Cynon Valley



03

Mick Antoniw
Pontypridd



04

Jane Hutt
Bro Morgannwg
—
Vale of Glamorgan



05

Mark Drakeford
Gorllewin Caerdydd
—
Cardiff West



06

Julie Morgan
Gogledd Caerdydd
—
Cardiff North



07

Jenny Rathbone
Canol Caerdydd
—
Cardiff Central



08

Vaughan Gething
De Caerdydd a Phenarth
—
Cardiff South and Penarth



Who represents you: Mid and West Wales

AELODAU RHANBARTHOL

REGIONAL MEMBERS



Neil
Hamilton



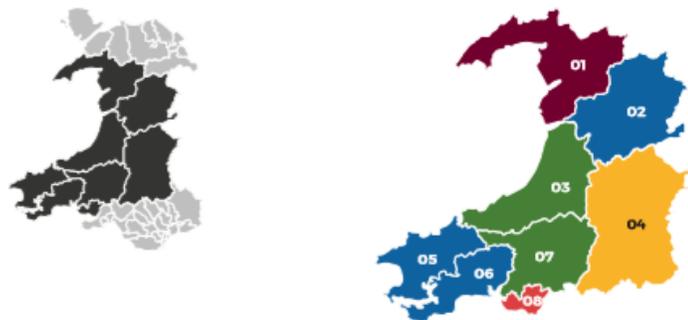
Eluned
Morgan



Helen Mary
Jones



Joyce
Watson



● Llafur Cymru
—
Welsh Labour

● Y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig
—
Welsh Conservatives

● Plaid Cymru
—
The Party of Wales

● UKIP Cymru
—
UKIP Wales

● Aelod Annibynnol
—
Independent Member

● Welsh Liberal Democrats
—
Y Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru

AELODAU ETHOLAETH

CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS



01

Dafydd Elis Thomas
Dwyfor Meirionnydd



02

Russell George
Sir Drefaldwyn
—
Montgomeryshire



03

Elin Jones
Ceredigion



04

Kirsty Williams
Brycheiniog a
Sir Faesyfed
—
Brecon and Radnorshire



05

Paul Davies
Preseli Sir Benfro
—
Preseli Pembrokeshire



06

Angela Burns
Corllewin Caerfyrddin a
De Sir Benfro
—
Carmarthen West and
South Pembrokeshire



07

Adam Price
Dwyrain Caerfyrddin a
Dinefwr
—
Carmarthen East and
Dinefwr



08

Lee Waters
Llanelli

8 Independent

Llywydd

1 UKIP Wales

10 Plaid Cymru

11 Welsh Conservatives

1 Welsh Liberal Democrat

**Welsh Government Ministers and
First Minister**

28 Welsh Labour

1 Welsh Labour and Co-operative Party

Plenary

How does my Member of Senedd represent me?



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Plenary

- Plenary is a meeting of the whole Senedd
- It takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, in the Siambwr.
- These meetings are an opportunity for MSs to ask questions of Government and raise constituency concerns through:

First Minister Questions

Topical Questions

Debates

90 Second Statements



Plenary during Covid-19

- One of the first parliaments in the world to hold virtual meetings in the Siambr during lockdown
- Committees and Plenary hosted online using Zoom and SeneddTV.
- Ongoing discussions about returning to the Siambr



Committees

What happens in a Committee?

Committees

What do committees do?

Committees scrutinise the expenditure and policies of the Welsh Government, hold Ministers to account, and examine proposed legislation

How are committees formed?

- Membership approximately matches the overall representation of the Senedd
- Nominations are held to choose committee chairs
- MS appointed to various committees during a Plenary meeting



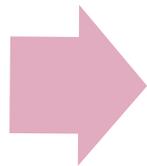
Committees

There are currently 15 committees

- Children, Young People and Education
- Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs
- Economy, Infrastructure and Skills
- Health, Social Care and Sport
- Equality, Local Government and Communities
- Legislation, Justice and Constitution
- Culture, Welsh Language, and Communications
- Petitions
- Finance
- Public Accounts
- Scrutiny of the First Minister
- Standards of Conduct
- External Affairs and Additional Legislation
- Business Committee
- Assembly Electoral Reform

Committees

Examine areas of law or policy decisions in devolved areas

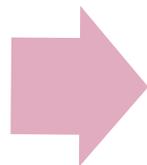


What is currently happening?



Can anything be improved?

Collect information from organisations and individuals (evidence)



Write a report



Provide recommendations to the Welsh Government

Committees

Committees can receive evidence

- in writing
- through videos or audio
- audio format
- oral evidence
- survey/questionnaire
- visits to groups/projects related to the issue they are investigating



A dense crowd of stylized human figures in various colors and poses, representing a diverse community. The figures are scattered across the frame, some standing, some walking, and some in a wheelchair. The background is a light gray color.

**Do you feel able to
influence the
decisions made about
your community?**

Cross Party Groups

What is a Cross party group?

What is a Cross party Group?

- Cross Party Groups may be set up by Members of the Senedd in respect of any subject area relevant to the Senedd.
- A group must include Members from three political groups in the Senedd. Cross Party groups are not formal Senedd groupings and are not, therefore, bound to any of the Senedd's standing orders. They have no formal role in policy development.
- Cross Party groups include Dementia, Hospices and Palliative Care, Children and Young People, Biodiversity, Human Trafficking, Mental Health, Women and Transport .



Citizen engagement

What else can I do?

Citizen Engagement

Supporting Committees

Citizen engagement activities to get a more diverse range of people involved in committee scrutiny

Aimed primarily at increasing number of citizens/service users in the process, in addition to traditional stakeholders

Examples include focus groups, web-chats, surveys, polling, video interviews, events and more

Childcare 5.0 (0 voted) 4 comments March 22, 2018 at 07:38PM	Better provision of breakfast and after school... 5.0 (0 voted) 3 comments March 21, 2018 at 04:49PM	Large employers should be forced to have childcare... 5.0 (2 voted) 3 comments March 15, 2018 at 07:04AM
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"When I was pregnant with my first child, I was working as a cleaner and had to stop working at about 3 months pregnant due to high blood pressure. I wasn't supported by my employer and they stopped paying me. My boss didn't believe I was pregnant initially because I hadn't had my first scan. The matter eventually ended up going to court, and even though I won, I was awarded a really low sum of money because my boss hadn't been properly recording all the hours I'd worked." (Mother, Carmarthenshire)



Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Due to the nature of the groups that we were meeting we decided to use vignettes to provide a less personal way of exploring sensitive topics.

Evidence was gathered from the following groups:

- Cardiff YMCA
- Crescent Court Residents, Rhyl
- Digartref Môn
- Gypsy Traveller groups in Llanelli and Pembroke
- Llamau Cardiff

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

John lives alone in a flat that he rents from a private landlord. He lost his job six months ago and has fallen behind with his rent; his housing benefit doesn't cover the full rent and he can't afford to make up the shortfall.

His landlord has now given him 2 months' notice to leave. He has been to the council but they have told him he isn't in priority need (because he doesn't have any young children or health issues) so they can't give him a council house to rent.

They did give him a leaflet with some names and addresses of landlords and information about a local bond board. John's notice ran out and he has moved in with a friend where he is sleeping on a sofa. Either a part of the Council, or a charity which gives a written guarantee rather than a cash bond to the landlord/property owner.

Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee

Housing (Wales) Act 2014

The focus groups concentrated on two key aspects of the Housing (Wales) Bill, namely:

- Reform of homelessness law, including placing a stronger duty on local authorities to prevent homelessness
- Placing a duty on local authorities to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers where a need has been identified.

PART 3
GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Meeting accommodation needs

101 Assessment of accommodation needs

- (1) A local housing authority must, in each review period, carry out an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers residing in or resorting to its area.
- (2) In carrying out an assessment under subsection (1) a local housing authority must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.
- (3) In subsection (1), "review period" means—
 - (a) the period of 1 year beginning with the coming into force of this section, and
 - (b) each subsequent period of 5 years.
- (4) The Welsh Ministers may amend subsection (3)(b) by order.

Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

Inquiry launch 7 December 2020

The Committee will explore the Welsh Government's proposals around remote working, including the Government's ambition of '30% of Welsh workers working from home or close to home' on a regular basis, and the proposed development of remote working hubs.

What do you think the impacts could be, both positive and negative on:

- The economy and business;
- Town and city centres;
- Issues affecting the workforce, and skills
- Health (physical and mental) and wellbeing;
- Inequalities between different groups and different parts of Wales (including those areas of with poor connectivity);
- The environment; and
- The transport network and infrastructure.

Petitions

Petitions can:

- Raise awareness of an issue
- Bring about a change in Welsh Government policy or a different way of delivering services
- Propose or influence a new law
- Prompt a Senedd Committee to hold an inquiry
- Lead to, or influence, a debate in the Senedd
- Prompt a Committee or individual Members of the Senedd to take further action themselves, for instance by asking questions



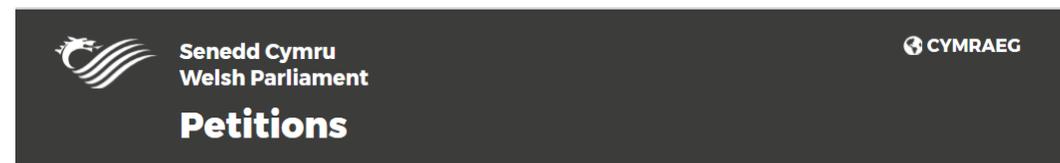
Petitions

- You can submit a petition on any issue that is the responsibility of the Senedd or the Welsh Government.
- Petitions must call for a specific action from the Senedd or Welsh Government.
- Petitions can disagree with the Welsh Government and can ask for it to change its policies. Petitions can be critical of the Senedd or Welsh Government.



How to start a petition

- Only people or organisations with an address in Wales can create a petition.
- You'll need 2 people to support your petition. We'll tell you how to do this when you've created your petition.
- We check your petition, then publish it in Welsh and English.
- We only reject petitions that don't meet the standards for petitions
- People can only sign a petition once.



Start a petition

What do you want us to do?

Example: Introduce a 10p charge for single use plastic bags

100

[▶ Show more examples ▼](#)

Just so you know

2 Later on, you'll need email addresses for 2 supporters to get your petition started

What can the Petitions Committee do?

As part of their consideration of your petition, the Petitions Committee can:

- write to you for more information;
- invite you to talk to the Committee in person about the petition;
- ask for evidence from the Welsh Government or other relevant people or organisations;
- press the Welsh Government for action;
- raise the petition with another Senedd committee;
- put forward the petition for debate;
- run a detailed inquiry and publish a report on the topic.

Shape our work

1000th Petition - Compulsory teaching of Black and People of Colour UK histories in the Welsh Education Curriculum

More than 34,000 signatures

“I started the petition in June amid global demonstrations against racism in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. This period of change and upheaval offers a crucial opportunity for the Senedd to act on the necessity of including BAME histories in the Welsh education curriculum” - Angharad Owen, Lead Petitioner



Shape our work

Current Petitions

There are 107 open petitions on the Senedd website. These include

The Hair & Beauty sector has proved itself COVID secure. Do not close us and risk Welsh jobs again.

6,060 signatures

Raise the number of people allowed in outdoor spaces so football can restart for all teams in Wales

5,330 signatures

Increase funding for mental health services and improve waiting times for people needing help in crisis. We need a change!

4,622 signatures

Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes.

4,044 signatures



Get involved

What can you do to get involved in our work:

- Contact your Members – they work for you!
- Organise an event
- Work for us
- Visit us – when it's safe to do so



Keep in touch

There are lots of ways we could keep in touch with you.



0300 200 65 65



contact@senedd.wales



Welsh Parliament, Cardiff Bay CF99 1SN



www.senedd.cymru | www.senedd.wales



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