



**Who is the Welsh
Language
Commissioner and
what is their role?**

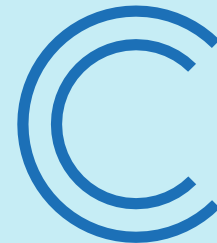




Welsh Language Measure 2011

The role of the **Welsh Language Commissioner**
➤ established by the **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**.

The **Welsh Language Measure 2011**
➤ gives rights to **Welsh speakers**
in Wales.



**Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner**



**Discussion
work**

What is meant by the
word '**right**'?

Can you think of **other rights**
that we have in our **everyday**
life?

Why are rights important,
in your opinion?



The Welsh Language Measure 2011:



- Give **official status** to the Welsh language in Wales;
- Encourage people in Wales to **use the Welsh language** and **make it easier** for them to do so;
- Ensure that the Welsh language is treated **no less favourably** than the English language;
- Create the **Welsh Language Standards**, which are a set of **rules** that **designated organisations** in Wales must follow in order to **ensure fairness** for the Welsh language;
- **Investigate complaints** if there is **interference** with people's **freedom** to use Welsh.

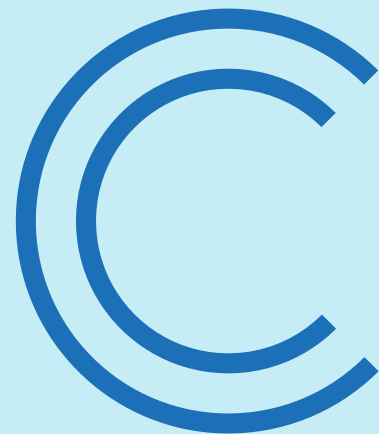
The role of the Welsh Language Commissioner was therefore established to protect the rights of Welsh speakers in Wales.




Before the **Welsh Language Measure 2011** >> the **Welsh Language Act 1993** had given **equal status to the Welsh language and the English language** in the **public sector** in Wales.

Public sector organisations in Wales had to treat the **Welsh** language and the **English** language **equally**.


The **public sector** = **local authorities, public bodies, the courts** and the **Government**.





Before the **Welsh Language Act 1993** and the **Welsh Language Measure 2011**, Welsh speakers **did not have the same rights** as they have today, and it was **more difficult** for them to **use their Welsh every day**.

Welsh speakers today are **very fortunate**, therefore, compared to those who wished to **live their life through the medium of Welsh** around **40 years ago** when **very few services** were available in Welsh.



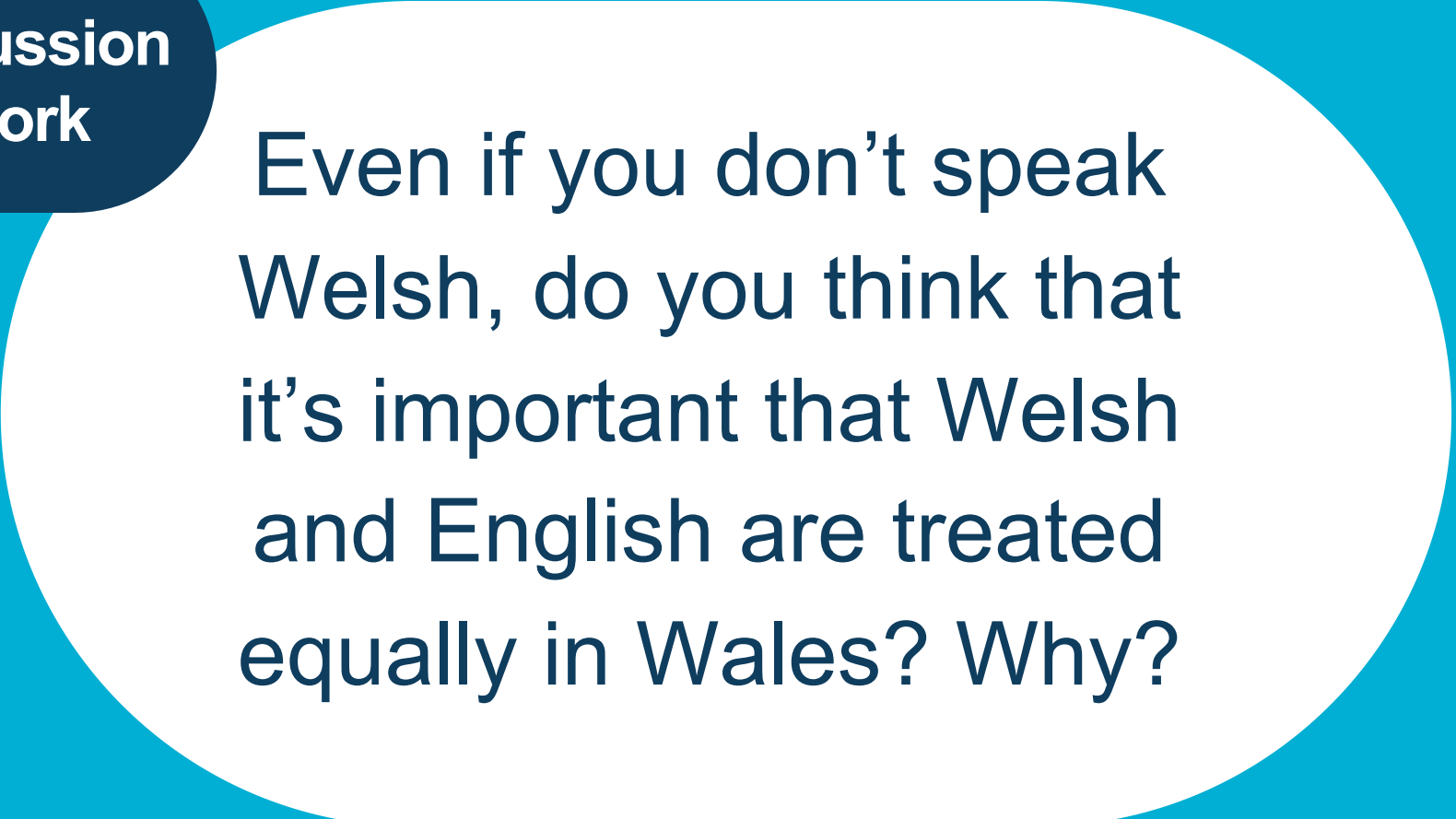


**Discussion
work**

How do you feel about the fact that Welsh speakers in Wales have **more rights** now compared to Welsh speakers before the **Welsh Language Act 1993** and the **Welsh Language Measure 2011**?
Is it important, in your opinion?



**Discussion
work**



Even if you don't speak Welsh, do you think that it's important that Welsh and English are treated equally in Wales? Why?



The **Welsh Language Measure 2011** and the **Welsh Language Act 1993** >> both **Welsh** and **English** must be treated **equally** in Wales, and people in Wales have the **right** and **freedom** to **use Welsh every day**.





The aim of the Cymraeg 2050 strategy

➤➤ Welsh *"is a routine part of everyday life, so that speakers at all levels feel confident in its use in formal and informal situations, and that products and services are offered proactively in Welsh."*



A major part of the **Welsh Language Commissioner's** role
>> to protect the right and
freedom of Welsh speakers to **use**
their **Welsh every day**, if they wish.



Who is the **Welsh Language Commissioner**?

Since **January 2023**, **Efa Gruffudd Jones** has been the **Welsh Language Commissioner**.



An **advisory panel** supports the **Commissioner**, and the **Commissioner** has **staff** in locations **across Wales**.

What does the **Welsh Language Commissioner** do?

- Aims to ensure **fairness, justice** and **rights** for Welsh speakers by **promoting** and **facilitating** the use of Welsh;
- The **Commissioner's vision** >> a Wales where people can **use Welsh** in their **everyday life** and **live their life in Welsh**;
- **Increasing the provision of Welsh language services** and **other opportunities** for people to use the language.





The **Commissioner's** role >>
ensure that the **Welsh language**
is not treated less favourably
than the English language, and to
increase the use of Welsh in **all**
sectors in Wales, particularly in
the **workplace** and in the
community.



According to the Commissioner:

*“ We know that many people receive **Welsh-medium education** but that they do not use the language **after leaving school**. The workplace is a **key place** to use their Welsh language skills and to provide opportunities for them to use the language **professionally and informally**... We need **better arrangements** in order to **recruit a bilingual workforce** that can use the Welsh language **in their work and with the public** every day. ”*

The Commissioner can also **investigate** whether there has been **interference** with **people's rights** to use **Welsh** in **particular circumstances**.



Someone **interferes with your freedom** if they:

- Tell you **not to use Welsh**;
- Say that you will **suffer in some way** because you're using Welsh.



18% of Welsh speakers have experienced someone **stopping them from speaking Welsh** in their everyday lives.



Increased to **29%** of those asked who were aged **between 16 and 34**.



Welsh speakers can **contact the Commissioner** if they **have not been able to receive a service in Welsh** from an organisation, or if they are **dissatisfied** with the way that an organisation has **considered the Welsh language** when making decisions.

They can complain about:

- **A lack of opportunities** to use Welsh;
- **Difficulties** in using Welsh at work;
- **Dissatisfaction** with how an organisation **treats or considers** the Welsh language.





Promote and facilitate the use
of Welsh in our everyday lives



[Welsh Language Commissioner - The Facts](#)



Welsh speakers' experiences of being prevented from using their Welsh:

*“ I was stopped because they
could only speak English. ”*

*I should be able to speak my own
language in my own country. I continued
to speak Welsh because the people I was
dealing with were Welsh speakers.*



Welsh speakers' experiences of being prevented from using their Welsh:



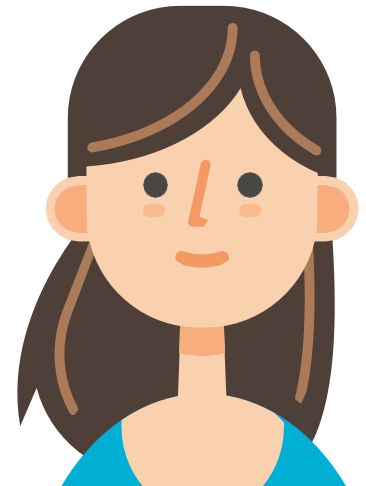
I was at work, they were telling me to stick to English so that it's clear and so that everyone could understand what I was saying, it didn't really bother me, I changed to English for the rest of the shift.





Welsh speakers' experiences of being prevented from using their Welsh:

“ *I couldn't use Welsh in a job interview because the person didn't understand Welsh.* ”



Case Study

Bupa Dental Care:

Following an investigation, the Welsh Language Commissioner has determined that Bupa Dental Care interfered with an individual's freedom to use the Welsh language whilst working in one of the company's dental practices.

The Commissioner determined that Bupa had interfered with his freedom by indicating in an email, and in a subsequent letter addressed to him, that he should not communicate in Welsh with other members of staff.

The reasons given by Bupa Dental Care for the interference were that it was necessary to avoid administrative errors and that the use of Welsh in this specific case constituted to the individual breaching conditions in his employment agreement.

The Commissioner was not of the opinion that there was justification to interfere with this individual's freedom to communicate in Welsh with his colleagues.

As a result of the investigation, Bupa Dental Care committed to give its staff assurances that they could use Welsh in Wales and accepted that the use of Welsh does not lead to errors being made.



Discussion work

If you can speak some Welsh, have you had an experience of someone **preventing** you or **making it difficult** for you to use Welsh (e.g. in a shop/ cafe/ place of leisure)? What happened? How did you feel? How did you respond to this? Or do you know of a Welsh speaker who's had this type of experience?





**Discussion
work**

If you don't speak Welsh,
do you think it's right that
Welsh speakers are stopped
from speaking Welsh if they
wish to do so?



**Discussion
work**

Do you think it's important that everyone in Wales shows respect towards the Welsh language, whether they speak Welsh or not?



Influencing policy

The **Welsh Language Commissioner's Policy Team** seeks to influence the **Welsh Government** and **other bodies** to ensure that their **policies** in **important areas** such as:

- education
- economic development
- housing and planning
- health and care

lead to an increase in the number of people who speak **Welsh** and have the opportunity to do so **daily**.





**Discussion
work**

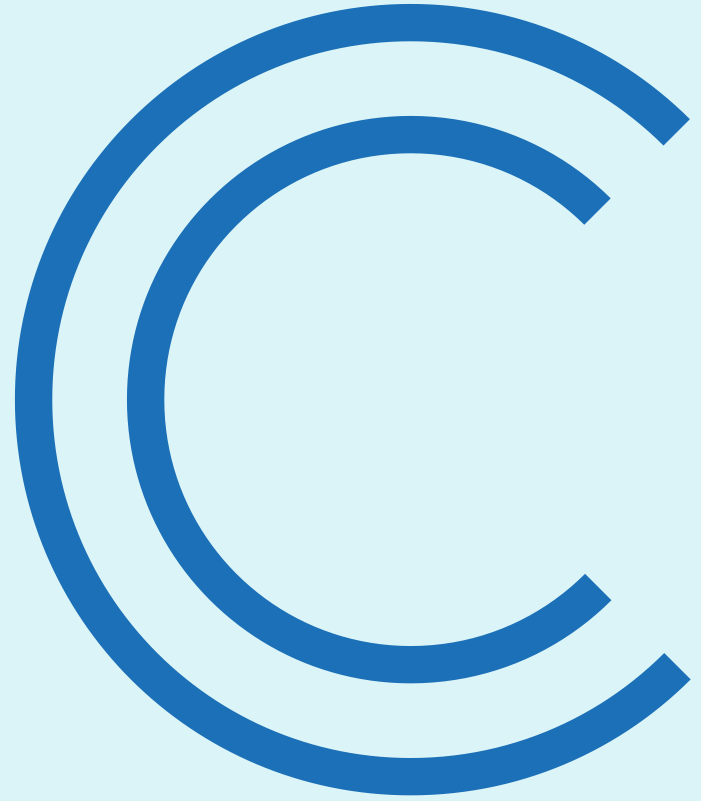
Do you **agree** that it is important that people in Wales have the **right** and **freedom** to **speak Welsh** if they wish? Why is the **Welsh Language Measure 2011** important in this respect?

Quiz



When was the post of Welsh Language Commissioner established?

**By the Welsh Language
Measure 2011.**





What is meant by the 'public sector'?

The public sector includes local authorities, public bodies, the courts and the Government.



Who is the Welsh Language Commissioner and since when has she been in post?

Efa Gruffudd Jones,
since January 2023.





**According to recent statistics,
how many Welsh speakers said
that they had experience of
someone else preventing them
from speaking Welsh in their
everyday life?**

**18% of the total population, 29%
of young people aged 16 to 24.**





What is the Welsh Language Commissioner's vision?

A Wales where people can use Welsh in their everyday life and live their life in Welsh.



