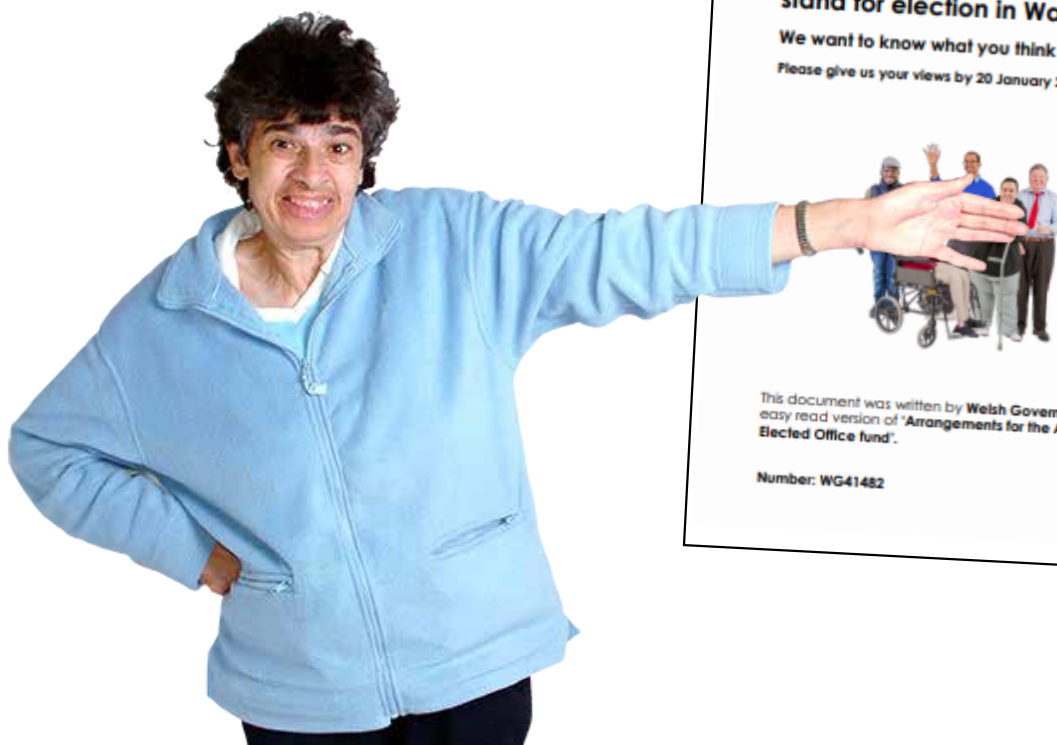




# Fund to help disabled people stand for election in Wales

## What people said



This document was written by Welsh Government. It is an easy read version of 'Consultation – summary of response: Access to Elected Office Fund'.

February 2021

# How to use this document



This is an easy read document, but you may still need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Some words may be hard to understand. They are in **bold blue writing**. They have been explained in a box below the word.



If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**. You can check what they mean on **page 14**.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

**Website:** [gov.wales/access-elected-office-fund](http://gov.wales/access-elected-office-fund)

**Email:** [LGD.DemocracyDiversityRemuneration@gov.wales](mailto:LGD.DemocracyDiversityRemuneration@gov.wales)



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

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# Introduction



Between **November 2020** and **January 2021**, we asked people what they thought about our plans for the **Access to Elected Office Fund Wales**.



You can find out more about this on our website: [gov.wales/access-elected-office-fund](http://gov.wales/access-elected-office-fund)



We are starting the **Access to Elected Office Fund Wales** to help disabled people stand for **election**.



An **election** is when everyone votes for the person they want to represent them.



A person will put themselves forward and ask people to vote for them. This person is called a **candidate**.



This document is about what people said.



We worked with **Disability Wales** to get as many people as possible to tell us what they think.

We had 48 responses:



- 32 responses were written by people



- 5 were written by councils



- and 11 were written on behalf of an organisation.

# What people said

## Question 1 - Who can apply to the fund



**How should we decide if someone can apply for funding as a disabled candidate?**

- **By asking for medical proof of being disabled?**
- **By asking people to self-define as a disabled person?**



Most people agreed that if a person describes themselves as disabled, they should be able to apply to this fund.



A few responses said people should have to have medical proof to apply.



They said this would stop people taking advantage of the fund. And would be a more honest and trustworthy way of giving out public money.



But nearly all responses said they were worried that asking people for medical proof, might stop them from standing in an **election**.



Lots of people also said that the definition of disability in the **Equality Act 2010** is not very good.



People said asking for medical proof would go against the **Social Model of Disability**, an approach the Welsh Government has said it would use in all it's work.



The **Social Model of Disability** says that a person is not disabled by their impairment or difference. A person is disabled by things in our society.



Responses said we should use the **Social Model of Disability** when thinking about who should be able to apply to this fund.

## Question 2 - Limits on how much we give



**Do you agree that there should be no limit on how much each disabled candidate can apply for?**



Most people agreed that there should **not** be a limit to how much you can apply for.



Some people disagreed.



Most people said that the amount of money a person gets, should be based on their needs.



Some people said having a limit to how much money you can get, might help the fund to support more people.



## Question 3 - How we manage funds



**Do you agree that Disability Wales should help candidates to buy services and equipment?**



Nearly everyone agreed that Disability Wales could provide support.



But they said that Disability Wales should only provide support if that is what the person wants.



We need to give people the choice.

## Question 4 - Stopping support after the election



**Do you agree that candidates should stop getting support from this fund after the election?**



Most responses agreed that **candidates** should stop getting support from this fund after the **election**.



People said that if a **candidate** won their **election**, the organisation they were elected to should make sure they had the support needed to do their job.



Some people worried that **candidates** might not get the level of support they needed after they won an **election**.

People said **candidates** should have the right support in place the whole time:



- when standing for **election**



- after winning an **election**



- and when doing the job they were elected to do.



A small number of responses said this fund should keep on supporting people after winning an **election**.

## Question 5 - When candidates change their mind about taking part in an election



Candidates might change their mind about taking part in the election. Do you agree that we should look at each individual's situation before asking them to pay back any funds?



Some responses agreed that we should look at each person's situation before asking them to pay any money back.



Over half of the responses said we should **not** take back any money. Because it might be bad for the person's health and well-being.



People said **candidates** should tell **Disability Wales** as soon as they change their mind about being a **candidate**. And then no more money should be given to that person.

## Question 6 - Name of fund



**Do you think the fund should be called  
Access to Elected Office Fund?**



Most people agreed that this fund should be called  
the **Access to Elected Office Fund**.



People said the name of the fund is the same in  
other parts of the UK. Keeping it the same across the  
UK will make it easier for people looking for support.

# Hard words

## Candidate

A candidate is a person who puts themselves forward and asks people to vote for them in an election.

## Election

An election is when everyone votes for the person they want to represent them.

## Social Model of Disability

The Social Model of Disability says that a person is not disabled by their impairment or difference. A person is disabled by things in our society.