

# Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill

## Welsh Language Impact Assessment

1. **Does the proposal demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language? – *Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers* and the related Work Programme for 2017-2021?**
  - 1.1 The setting up of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research is clearly linked to the aims of the Cymraeg 2050 Strategy in terms of improving the process of planning Welsh-medium provision in post-16 education and training; ensuring that all learners can develop their Welsh Language skills to their full potential and the encouragement of robust linguistic progression from one phase of education and training to the next; and to improve the ways of providing central support for Welsh-medium education and training.
  - 1.2 The Bill sets out nine strategic duties under which the Commission is required to exercise its functions including 'Promoting tertiary education through the medium of Welsh. Under this duty the Commission must:
    - encourage people to participate in tertiary education provided in Wales through the medium of Welsh;
    - take all reasonable steps to ensure that there is sufficient tertiary education provided in Wales through the medium of Welsh to meet reasonable demand;
    - encourage the provision of tertiary education through the medium of Welsh by—
      - i. registered providers in Wales, and
      - ii. other persons providing tertiary education funded or otherwise secured by the Commission .
  - 1.3 The Commission will consider the Welsh language in all of its activities, including strategy and policy development, delivery and funding of learning activities, the funding of individual institutions and research activity. The Cymraeg 2050 Strategy has a specific aim to 'develop post-compulsory education provision which increases rates of progression and supports everyone, whatever their command of the language, to develop Welsh language skills for use socially and in the workplace.'
  - 1.4 The Commission will have a direct and critical role in supporting the Welsh Government to achieve this aim. The aim for the Welsh Language policy is to develop a system that enables learning, assessment and progression through the medium of Welsh.
  - 1.5 It will be a matter for the Commission to determine how it discharges its functions including how it has regard to the need to increase the provision of Welsh-medium tertiary education. However, some examples of how we envisage this requirement

may be implemented and appropriately monitored by the Commission include the following:

- Plan strategically to positively promote and increase Welsh-medium tertiary education, encourage institutions to deliver, develop and increase their Welsh-medium tertiary education via funding and outcome agreements;
- Encourage providers to plan progression routes for Welsh speakers to continue their learning post 16 and to continue to develop their Welsh language skills and offer opportunities to use the Welsh language in order to create a bilingual workforce;
- Monitor availability and take up of Welsh-medium learning opportunities, and any subjects where the demand for Welsh-medium learning cannot be met ;
- Evaluate the success of interventions to promote the Welsh language and Welsh-medium learning;
- Work effectively with Welsh Government, the Coleg and the National Centre to achieve the above;
- Report to Welsh Ministers on the impact of the above activities on the take-up Welsh-medium learning.

1.6 Increasing the opportunities for learners to continue into post-16 Welsh medium education and training, whether in schools, further education colleges, apprenticeships or higher education will allow them to further develop their Welsh language skills. This increase in the number of individuals with Welsh language skills at a range of levels will benefit the communities they live in and will help to create a bilingual workforce.

**2. Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language, and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh language.**

2.1 The proposals will support Welsh speakers to continue to use their Welsh Language skills in their communities both formally and informally. Examples could include taking part in civic and cultural events taking place in the community, undertaking civic roles such as being a member of a community council or the governor of a local school.

2.2 The Commission will have to plan for the development of Welsh-medium provision across all of its activities and responsibilities from the outset. As an inherent part of its duties, it will need to plan strategically to positively promote Welsh-medium provision, ensure that institutions deliver and develop their Welsh-medium provision and provide support and guidance to institutions both financial and practical.

2.3 The proposal should result in an increase, generally, in the availability of Welsh medium tertiary education including increasing the number of higher education and further education courses and apprenticeships. The policy objective is to increase the

availability of Welsh medium courses to broaden the choice for learners to study through their chosen language.

- 2.4 The proposals will assist in ensuring that the number of individuals with Welsh language skills will increase over time and are able to take up a range of opportunities in the organisations that deliver the above services. It is expected that the Commission will take account of the sectors which identify having language skills gaps and reflect this in their planning functions.

### **3. How will you ensure that people know about services that are available in Welsh and are able to access and use them as easily as they can in English?**

- 3.1 It is envisaged that the Commission will become subject to the Welsh language standards as provided for in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Commission will need to demonstrate compliance with the standards across all its functions.
- 3.2 Having one organisation (the Commission) being responsible for all tertiary education will allow for more strategic planning of Welsh medium Education and better monitoring of the availability of Welsh medium courses and assessment of the success and attainment levels of Welsh medium courses.
- 3.3 The Commission will be the responsible body for commissioning all tertiary education, and in conjunction with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, will allow for more strategic planning of Welsh-medium education. There will be improved monitoring of the availability of Welsh-medium courses and an assessment of the success and attainment levels of Welsh-medium courses.

### **4. How will you know if your policy is a success?**

- 4.1 The policy will be a success if the numbers of Welsh-medium tertiary education, including higher education and further education courses and apprenticeships, increase. We would also want the number of courses provided through the medium of Welsh to broaden and the geographical locations to be wide. There are some examples of how we expect this to be implemented on page 54. The Commission, in conjunction with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on specific Welsh-medium developments, will be responsible for tertiary education should allow for better and clearer information provided to learners and which should, in turn, improve access.