

Easy Read

Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales

A report about work done so far



This document was written by the **Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales**. It is an easy read version of 'Interim Report – Executive Summary.'

December 2022

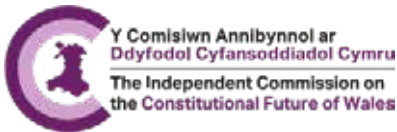
How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 18**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales**. For more information contact:

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Introduction



We are the **Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales**.



The **Welsh Government** set up the **Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales** in 2021.



We are a team of professionals working together to look at how Wales is run now and how it could be run in the future.

We have been set up by Welsh Government to look at:



- Who has power over what in Wales.



- The rules for how Wales is run.



- Who makes the decisions that affect the people of Wales.



- What parts of life should we be able to make our own rules and decisions over.



- New ideas for how all this can be improved.



This is a report showing what we have learnt so far.



There is more work to do and we want to hear from more people.



We will write another report next year.

What people have told us



We asked people how they think Wales should be run.

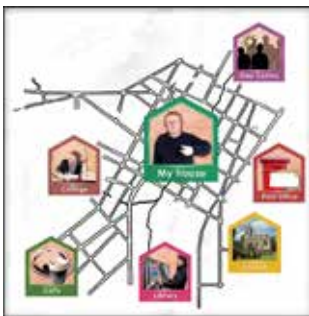
People said things like:



- It should be run in a clear and open way.



- They did not know how they could have a say about decisions.



- Many people wanted more decisions to be made in their local areas.



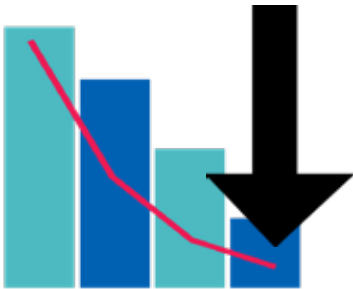
- Many people wanted the government to be run in a simpler way.



There were also differences in what people thought.



Some people thought Wales should have more control over how it is run.



Others thought it should have less power.

Voting for people to run our country and communities



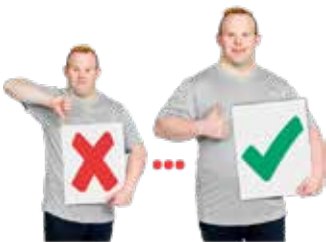
Some people said the way we do things needs to change.



Other people said things should stay the same.



Some politicians we spoke to said **Brexit** had made relationships between governments more difficult.



But that things can be improved.



Some politicians wanted Wales to have more power.

Laws made in Wales



Wales is now able to make some of its own laws.



This has been a big step for Wales. And has meant changes can be made that are better for Wales.

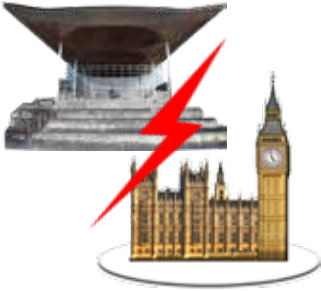


Wales having more control over how it is run is called **devolution**. It means the UK government has less control over certain things.



But there is also a lot of pressure on **devolution**.

This is caused by things like:



- Problems with the relationship between the Welsh Government and the UK Government.



- Sometimes **devolution** has not developed as much as it could have. Things like **Brexit** have had an impact.



- The ways money is managed between UK countries could be done better.



- There are not enough ways for the public to have a say over decisions.



- People are not confident that there are enough things in place to check that the Government is doing what it is meant to be doing.



- Overall people in Wales have less money than people in most of the UK. But it is not clear how this could be improved.



- Any changes Wales would like to make about how it is run must be agreed by the UK Government. They might ignore what Wales wants.



In the next year of our work, we will be looking at these issues.

How Wales should be run in the future



We think there are 3 options for how Wales should be run in the future.



There could be issues with all options.



So, we will need to get more information about each one. And find out what people think.

The 3 options are:

1. Entrenched devolution



This means making sure that the powers Wales has to make its own decisions cannot be taken away by the UK Government.



It would mean the UK Government is less able to have influence on the Welsh Government's responsibilities.



It could also mean extending the responsibilities that Wales has. For example to include the justice system and policing.



This option would help make the Welsh Government more stable.

2. Federal structures



This means changing how the UK Parliament and Government is run.



It would mean making clear which responsibilities apply to the UK as a whole, and which to England only.



Wales could have responsibility for its own **welfare system** and tax.



The **welfare system** means things like benefits and pensions. For example, disability benefit.



Or the UK Government could stay in control of this.

3. Independence



This means Wales becoming an independent country.

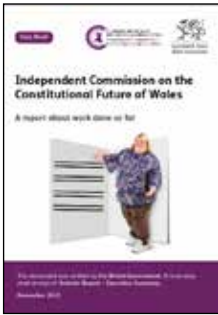


We would make all our own rules and laws, and collect taxes and manage our own money.



We would take responsibility for all financial matters and would not rely on UK Government support.

What next?



This report explains what we have found out so far.



A lot more work needs to be done in the next year.



But it is clear that there are a lot of problems with the way Wales is run at the moment.



We will keep looking into these issues. And try to find solutions.



We will also find out what the people of Wales think.



We would like to hear from you. You can get in touch by e-mailing constitutioncommission@gov.wales.



You may need support to tell us your views. Please ask someone you know to help you.

Hard words

Economy

The economy is how much money a country has. It can affect how many public services a country has and how much money people have.

Welfare system

The Welfare system means things like benefits and pensions. For example, disability benefit.