

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Welsh Language Impact Assessment reference number: **02/02/2023**
2. 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?

There is no direct link with the Cymraeg 2050 strategy. It is not possible to quantify the impact of the Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill on the Welsh language as it contains a collection of proposals requiring further action to implement, all of which will impact on the Welsh language in different ways. The Air Quality Team will assess how individual policies in the Bill will impact the Welsh language by working with colleagues responsible for the Welsh language through the Bills implementation.

We will ensure all information produced through implementation of the promoting awareness duty will be bilingual and created in line with the Welsh Language Standards.

3. 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. How will the proposal affect Welsh speakers of all ages (both positive and/or adverse effects)?

The overwhelming majority of written responses to our consultations were unable to identify any impacts, positive or negative, on the Welsh language from our proposals. Several respondents offered broader views on the potential for the proposals to have an indirect benefit on the language. For example, by providing an opportunity for greater bilingualism on packaging of alternative products made in or produced for Wales.

In person public consultations on our proposals and discussions with the Wrexham Youth Parliament during the formulation of the Clean Air Plan did not result in any consultees outlining a way these proposals could harm the Welsh language. The proposals will not affect the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities or Welsh medium education and Welsh learners of any ages.

Information produced to support implementation of the promoting awareness duty, LAQM, smoke control and idling provisions will be bilingual and in line with the Welsh Language Standards to deliver equality of information for Welsh speakers. This will ensure that Welsh-speaking communities have access to high quality information about local air quality conditions as well as air pollution sources, impacts and mitigating actions more broadly.

Improving decision-making wherever it has the potential to affect acoustics in learning and sleeping spaces (and any places where Welsh is practised by learners) can reduce any adverse impacts of noise on the learning of Welsh.

We have not identified any impacts arising from the Bill on services available in Welsh; however, we will continue to assess impacts through implementation of the Bill.