

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Policy Context

The Welsh Government is committed to Cymraeg 2050, the national strategy to reach one million Welsh speakers by 2050. A thriving Welsh language is also a well-being goal under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. All Welsh Government policies must consider their impact on the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities.

Link to Cymraeg 2050

Although the Appeals Regulations do not directly contribute to the two headline targets of Cymraeg 2050, they strongly align with its strategic themes.

In particular, they support:

- Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh by embedding bilingual processes within the appeals system, ensuring that Welsh can be used confidently in formal proceedings.
- Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions by providing digital accessibility and maintaining compliance with Welsh Language Standards, thereby fostering an environment where the Welsh language can thrive in public administration.

Impact of the Regulations

Aspect	Description
Bilingual Services	All public-facing services, including appeal forms, notices, and decisions, will be available in Welsh and English. The electronic register of disused tips will be bilingual, supporting digital innovation and accessibility for Welsh speakers.
Compliance	The Authority will comply with Welsh Language Standards and engage with the Welsh Language Commissioner to ensure early implementation.

Effects on Welsh Speakers and Communities

The Appeal Regulations are expected to have a positive impact on Welsh speakers and Welsh-speaking communities. The framework ensures equal treatment of Welsh and English throughout the appeal process, supporting the principle of bilingual service delivery. By safeguarding infrastructure and providing accessible information in both languages, the regulations contribute to the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities. There are no identified adverse effects, as the regulations do not restrict opportunities to use Welsh nor do they impact Welsh-medium education.

Services and Accessibility

All communications, guidance materials, and appeal documentation associated with the Appeal Regulations will be provided bilingually in Welsh and English, ensuring full accessibility for Welsh speakers. Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards will be monitored by the Welsh Language Commissioner to maintain high standards of service delivery. Public awareness of the appeal process will be promoted through bilingual publications and digital platforms, reinforcing the commitment to equality and supporting the use of Welsh in official proceedings.

Evidence Base

Evidence gathered during the consultation on the Coal Tip Safety White Paper demonstrated strong support for bilingual delivery and full compliance with Welsh Language Standards. Respondents emphasised the importance of maintaining bilingual registers and ensuring the retention of Welsh place names within official documentation. This feedback has informed the development of the Appeal Regulations, reinforcing the commitment to equality and cultural preservation in the implementation of the appeal process.

Monitoring and Success

The success of the Appeal Regulations in supporting the Welsh language will be measured through clear indicators. These include ongoing compliance with Welsh Language Standards, ensuring that all services and documentation remain fully bilingual and accessible. Additionally, feedback from Welsh-speaking communities could be gathered during the post-implementation review to assess satisfaction and identify areas for improvement. This monitoring approach will help maintain high standards and reinforce commitment to equality and cultural sustainability.

Summary

The Appeals Regulations are expected to have a positive or neutral impact on the Welsh language. They reinforce the Welsh Government's commitment to promoting bilingualism by embedding the use of Welsh and English throughout regulatory processes and associated digital services. This approach ensures equality of access, supports cultural sustainability, and strengthens the visibility of the Welsh language in public administration.