

Consultation on proposed amendments to the Selected List Scheme (SLS) in Wales

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 2021-2026? [Cymraeg 2050 work programme 2021-2026](#)

The proposed amendments to the Selected List Scheme (SLS) are not specifically designed to promote or increase the use of the Welsh language, and therefore have a limited direct link to objectives relating to the Welsh language.

However, the proposals are centred on ensuring that public services are:

- accessible,
- equitable, and
- delivered in a way that does not disadvantage Welsh speakers.

The proposals aim to simplify prescribing arrangements and reduce unnecessary administrative barriers within NHS Wales. In doing so, they support a more consistent and streamlined service offer, which can help ensure that Welsh-speaking patients experience the same level of access and quality of care as non-Welsh speakers.

Although indirect, the proposals may support the Welsh language goals in the following ways:

- By improving timeliness and clarity of access to treatment, they support equitable access to services, including in communities where Welsh is widely spoken.
- By reducing unnecessary complexity in prescribing processes, they help ensure that interactions between patients and healthcare professionals are focused on clinical need, which may support clearer communication in either Welsh or English.
- By operating within existing NHS Wales service structures, they align with the expectation that services are delivered in accordance with Welsh Language Standards, including the availability of services and information in Welsh.

No adverse impact on Welsh language objectives

The proposals are not expected to have any negative impact on:

- the use of the Welsh language,
- access to Welsh-language services, or
- Welsh-speaking communities.

They do not affect workforce language requirements, service delivery models, or communication policies.

The proposals align with the wider ambition of ensuring that public services in Wales support the use of Welsh and treat it no less favourably than English, even where the policy itself is not language-specific.

Implementation of the proposals will continue to follow standard Welsh Government and NHS Wales requirements to provide bilingual communication, consultation materials and service information, in line with Welsh Language Standards.

Summary

Overall, while the proposals are not targeted at increasing the use of the Welsh language, they are compatible with and supportive of the principles of ensuring equitable access to services and maintaining bilingual provision across NHS Wales.

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. How will the proposal affect Welsh speakers of all ages (both positive and/or adverse effects)? You should note your responses to the following in your answer to this question, along with any other relevant information:

- ♦ How will the proposal affect the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities¹ (both positive and/or adverse effects)?
- ♦ How will the proposal affect Welsh medium education and Welsh learners of all ages, including adults (both positive and/or adverse effects)?

¹ These can be close-knit rural communities, dispersed social networks in urban settings, and in virtual communities reaching across geographical spaces.

- ♦ How will the proposal affect services² available in Welsh (both positive and/or adverse effects)? (e.g. health and social services, transport, housing, digital, youth, infrastructure, environment, local government etc.)
- ♦ 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? What evidence / data have you used to inform your assessment, including evidence from Welsh speakers or Welsh language interest groups?
- ♦ What other evidence would help you to conduct a better assessment?
- ♦ How will you know if your policy is a success?

The proposed amendments to the Selected List Scheme (SLS) are not expected to have a significant direct impact on the Welsh language, as they relate to the legislative and administrative framework governing prescribing rather than to the delivery model of services, workforce planning, or language provision.

However, the proposals have been assessed for any indirect effects on Welsh speakers, services in Welsh, and Welsh-speaking communities, and are considered neutral to marginally positive overall.

Impact on Welsh speakers (all ages)

The proposals are expected to have a neutral to marginally positive impact on Welsh speakers of all ages.

- The proposals do not change eligibility for services, workforce requirements, or the availability of Welsh-language provision within NHS Wales.
- By simplifying prescribing processes and reducing administrative barriers, the proposals may support more timely and consistent access to care, which benefits all patients, including Welsh speakers.
- There is no evidence that the proposals would disadvantage Welsh speakers or create barriers to accessing services in Welsh.

Impact on the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities

The proposals are expected to have a neutral impact on the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities.

- They do not affect demographic patterns, economic conditions, housing, or education — all of which are key drivers of community sustainability.

² The Welsh Language Strategy aims to increase the range of services offered to Welsh speakers, and to see an increase in use of Welsh-language services.

- There may be a small indirect positive effect where improved access to healthcare supports population wellbeing, which is a contributing factor to the sustainability of communities, including those where Welsh is widely spoken.

Overall, no material impact on the sustainability of Welsh-speaking communities has been identified.

Impact on Welsh-medium education and Welsh learners

The proposals are expected to have a neutral impact on Welsh-medium education and Welsh learners of all ages.

- They do not affect the education system, training provision, or opportunities to learn Welsh.
- Improved access to healthcare may support general wellbeing, but any impact on learning or education is indirect and minimal.

Impact on services available in Welsh

The proposals are expected to have a neutral to marginally positive impact on services available in Welsh.

- They do not change how services are delivered, nor do they affect Welsh Language Standards or the requirement to provide services in Welsh.
- By reducing unnecessary administrative processes, the proposals may support more efficient service delivery, which can help ensure that services are delivered consistently in both Welsh and English.
- There may be a small indirect benefit where simplified processes reduce complexity in interactions between patients and professionals, supporting clearer communication.

No adverse impacts on Welsh-language service provision have been identified.

Ensuring access to Welsh-language services

Access to services in Welsh will continue to be ensured through:

- Compliance with Welsh Language Standards, which require services and communications to be available in Welsh.
- Provision of bilingual consultation materials, guidance and service information.
- Ongoing expectations within NHS Wales that patients can access services and communicate in Welsh as easily as in English.

The proposals do not alter these requirements and will be implemented in line with existing Welsh language obligations.

Evidence and data used

The assessment is based on:

- The nature of the proposals, which are limited to prescribing governance and administrative arrangements, rather than service delivery or workforce changes.
- Welsh Government policy and statutory requirements relating to Welsh Language Standards and public service delivery.
- General understanding that barriers to access (including administrative complexity) can affect all patients, including Welsh speakers, and that reducing these barriers supports equitable access.

No specific evidence has been identified to suggest that these proposals would have a differential impact on Welsh speakers.