Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Integrated Impact Assessment Record

Proposal summary

The Government's second programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law, through which we are seeking to create a modern, bilingual, 'statute book' for Wales.

Well-being of Future Generations Act questions.

1. **How have the five ways of working shaped the development and implementation of this policy or legislation?**

   The programme has been developed and will be implemented in accordance with the sustainable development principle and the five ways of working.

   Long term: The programme reflects a long-standing commitment to improving the accessibility of Welsh law. Consolidation and codification are inherently long-term activities intended to improve the quality, coherence and usability of Welsh law for future generations rather than to address short-term issues. The programme also supports the continuing maintenance of Codes of Welsh law and improvements to legislative infrastructure that will extend beyond the lifetime of this Senedd term.

   Prevention: The programme seeks to prevent problems arising from legal complexity, fragmentation and difficulty accessing legislation by improving the structure, publication and understanding of Welsh law. It aims to reduce barriers before they create adverse consequences for citizens, public bodies, businesses and other users of Welsh law.

   Integration: Activities within the programme contribute simultaneously to multiple objectives, including accessibility, legal certainty, bilingualism, public understanding, improved digital services and good governance. Individual projects often support more than one strand of the programme and contribute to several well-being goals.

   Collaboration: The programme has been developed through collaboration across Welsh Government, including the Office of the Legislative Counsel, policy departments, Legal Services, Welsh language specialists, digital specialists, publication teams and others responsible for the preparation and publication of legislation. Delivery will continue to involve collaboration with partners including The National Archives, the Law Commission, the Senedd Commission and others.

Involvement: The programme builds on experience from the first accessibility programme and ongoing engagement with those who prepare, publish, interpret and use Welsh law. Individual projects delivered under the programme will involve further engagement and consultation where appropriate, particularly where they involve substantive policy reform.

2. **Who have you collaborated with and involved when developing the proposal, and to understand its impacts, including on people, households, public bodies, businesses and the third sector (e.g. through engagement with relevant stakeholders or public consultation?)**

The programme has primarily been developed through collaboration within Welsh Government (see above), and draws upon the work and expertise of external organisations and institutions including:

- the Law Commission of England and Wales
- The National Archives;
- the Senedd and its Committees;
- organisations involved in the publication, scrutiny and implementation of legislation; and
- users of Welsh law more generally through ongoing engagement associated with legislative accessibility initiatives.

No public consultation has been undertaken on the programme as a whole. This is considered proportionate because the programme is principally a statutory, technical and enabling framework concerned with the accessibility, organisation and publication of Welsh law rather than substantive policy reform. Individual projects delivered under the programme will undertake appropriate engagement, consultation and impact assessment where required.

3. **How does the policy contribute to sustainable development and long-term well-being outcomes?**

The programme contributes to sustainable development by improving the legal infrastructure that supports democratic accountability, public administration, access to justice and the rule of law in Wales.

More accessible legislation can assist individuals, businesses, public bodies, advisers and third-sector organisations to identify rights and obligations, understand legal requirements and engage more effectively with public institutions. By reducing barriers to understanding Welsh law, the programme supports good governance, informed decision-making and greater confidence in public services and democratic processes.

The programme also contributes to the long-term development of Welsh law as a coherent, bilingual body of law and supports the use of Welsh in legal,

governmental and public-administration settings. Through consolidation, codification, bilingual publication and supporting digital infrastructure, it helps ensure that Welsh law remains accessible, usable and fit for future generations.

Although the programme itself is not expected to produce major environmental, economic or social outcomes directly, it supports the conditions necessary for effective governance across all policy areas and therefore contributes indirectly to long-term well-being outcomes across Wales.

4. What are the key impacts (positive, negative, and opportunities) across each of the seven well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	*Key impacts*
A Prosperous Wales	Positive indirect impact through clearer and more accessible legislation, reducing complexity and supporting individuals, businesses and public bodies to identify and comply with legal requirements more efficiently.
A Resilient Wales	Neutral at programme level. The programme does not directly affect natural resources or biodiversity but may indirectly support future environmental governance by improving accessibility of wildlife, forestry, agricultural and planning legislation.
A Healthier Wales	Neutral to minor positive indirect impact. Improved access to legal information may support understanding of rights and services and reduce uncertainty, although the programme is not intended to improve health services or health outcomes directly.
A More Equal Wales	Positive impact through reducing barriers to finding, understanding and using Welsh law, particularly for those who may face barriers because of disability, language, socio-economic disadvantage or reduced access to specialist legal advice.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Positive impact through improved transparency, democratic participation and understanding of legal rights and obligations, supporting confidence in public institutions.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Strong positive impact. The programme supports bilingual legislation, Welsh legal terminology, Welsh-language legal publication, bilingual glossaries and wider use of Welsh as a language of law and administration.
A Globally Responsible Wales	Positive indirect impact through strengthening governance, legal transparency and stewardship of Welsh law. The programme also presents opportunities to ensure that digital and AI-enabled legal services are developed responsibly and sustainably.

No significant negative impacts have been identified at programme level. Any significant impacts arising from individual legislative projects will be considered separately through project-level impact assessment processes.

5. What evidence, including reports under the Act, has informed the policy, and how will it support ongoing decision-making?

The programme has been informed by:

- the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 and the statutory requirement to prepare a programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law;
- experience gained from delivering the first programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law;
- annual reporting undertaken under the first programme;
- previous recommendations and reports from the Law Commission concerning Welsh law and codification;
- scrutiny by Senedd committees (particularly the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee of the Sixth Senedd), including work relating to codification and legislative accessibility;
- operational experience of preparing, publishing, maintaining and revising Welsh legislation;
- collaboration with The National Archives and other partners involved in legislative publication and digital services; and
- evidence gathered through the programme development process and associated impact assessments.

Ongoing decision-making will be supported through annual reports to the Senedd, continued engagement with delivery partners, monitoring of implementation and evaluation of individual projects delivered under the

programme. These mechanisms will allow evidence and experience to inform future prioritisation and development of Welsh law accessibility initiatives.

Summary of Impact Assessments for this proposal

Mandatory publication (if the Impact Assessment is required)

Equality Impact Assessment

Completed: Full assessment was not required, but initial assessment published

Children's Rights Impact Assessment

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Published: Screening assessment only

Health Impact Assessment

Completed: No

Published: Not required for this proposal

Other Impact Assessments

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Completed: Yes

Data Protection Impact Assessment Screening

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Natural Resources Impact Assessment

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Rural Proofing Impact Assessment

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Sustainable Land Management Impact Assessment

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Carbon Impact Assessment

Completed: Screening only required for this proposal

Duty of Quality (Health) Impact Assessment

Completed: Not required for this proposal

Socio-economic Impact Assessment

Completed: Yes