

**Y Cyngor Prydeinig-Gwyddelig**

**British-Irish Council**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Astudiaeth achos

**Mesur y Gymraeg (Cymru) 2011**

Case study

**Welsh Language (Wales) Measure  
2011**

# Case study: Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

Iwan will talk about:

- background to the Measure
- objectives of the Measure
- the Measure's provisions

Bethan will talk about:

- implementation of the Measure (including Welsh language standards)
- challenges facing organisations
- the Measure's contribution to the wider Welsh language policy agenda

# Background: Previous Welsh language legislation

- Welsh in Courts Act 1942
- Welsh Language Act 1967
- Welsh Language Act 1993
- Provisions within the Government of Wales Act 2006

## Background: Welsh Language Act 1993

- Established Welsh Language Board to promote the use of Welsh
- Duty on public sector bodies to prepare Welsh language schemes
- Treat Welsh and English on the basis of equality
- Right to speak Welsh in court proceedings

# Objectives of Welsh Language (Wales) Measure

- Confirm the official status of the language
- Establish rights for Welsh-speakers
- Clarity and consistency for Welsh-speakers in terms of services
- Move the focus for organisations from preparation of schemes to delivery of Welsh language services
- Additional focus on the workplace and policy-making process
- More effective enforcement

## Measure's Provisions

- **Official status of the Welsh language**
- Section 1(1):

***“The Welsh language has official status in Wales”***

- Section 1(2):

*“Without prejudice to the general principle of subsection (1), the official status of the Welsh language is given legal effect by the enactments about – [list of situations]”*

## Measure's Provisions

- **Establish Welsh Language Commissioner**
- Principal aim: ***“...to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language”***
- Must have regard to:
  - official status of the Welsh language
  - duties to use Welsh (and the rights arising from those duties)
  - principle that the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language
  - principle that persons should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they choose to do so.

# Measure's Provisions

- New duties: Welsh Language Standards
  - Service delivery
  - Policy making
  - Operational
  - Promotion
  - Record-keeping
- To replace Welsh language schemes under the 1993 Act



## Measure's Provisions

- Strengthened enforcement powers
- Welsh Language Tribunal
- Freedom to use Welsh
- Welsh Language Partnership Council
- Welsh Language Strategy (annual action plans)

# Implementation

- Development of Welsh Language Standards
  - Service delivery
  - Policy making
  - Operational
  - Promotion
  - Record-keeping

# Implementation

- What are the challenges facing organisations?

## **Wider policy context**

- What will be the Measure's contribution to the wider Welsh language policy agenda?