



11.0 Engagement and Influencing

Who Represents Me?

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This information sheet outlines the different levels of democratically elected institutions in Wales which will help people to answer the question 'who represents me?' It will also explore the main issues that are dealt with by each of the bodies, to make it easier for people to understand who they need to approach for help with specific issues.

How Many Representatives Do I Have?

At any given time, each Welsh citizen will have upwards of 7 democratically elected representatives working in different institutions, from town and community councils (at least one councillor, if there is a town or **community council** in your area), to **local authorities** (at least one councillor), **Senedd Cymru** (the Welsh Parliament) (five Members of the Senedd) and the **UK Parliament** (one Member of Parliament - MP).



Image: Woman representative at a podium



Information

One of the quickest ways to find out who represents you in your area is to use Write to Them. Using your postcode, it will tell you who your elected representatives are for all institutions except town and community councils.

[Write to Them website](#)

Town and Community Councillors

There are 735 town and community councils in Wales with about 8,000 elected councillors and they are considered to be the grassroots of government in Wales. You may have several town or community councillors representing your area. Conversely, there may not even be a town or community council in your area. They are concerned with very local issues, will often work in partnership with others to progress local projects and commonly provide services such as:

- Community task forces
- Community centres, village halls and indoor recreation centres
- War memorials
- Public information signs and noticeboards
- Public seating and bus shelters

The best way to find contact details for your local town and community councillors is through your local authority, which should have the details of all the town and community councils in their area.



Information

You can also find out more about Town and Community Councils in Wales through “[One Voice Wales](#)” the organisation that represents and supports them;

[One Voice Wales](#)

Local Authority Councillors

There are 22 local authority areas in Wales, all of which are Unitary Authorities. This means there is one council providing all local authority services in the area, rather than both a district or borough council and a county council.

There are over 1,200 democratically elected councillors serving on the 22 local authorities in Wales and each councillor will represent a specific area known as a ward (or **electoral division**). You may have more than one councillor representing your ward.

Some wards that are more densely populated can be designated as multi-member wards. The issues that are dealt with at local authority level are:

- The council tax
- Tackling disadvantage and rebuilding communities
- Local transport issues
- Community safety and crime reduction
- Social care services
- Education and lifelong learning
- Housing
- Arts, sports and culture
- The environment
- Planning applications
- Local tourism strategies



Information

Your local authority will be able to tell you about your ward councillor(s) or visit

[Write to Them](#)

Members of the Senedd (MSs)

The Senedd is made up of 60 elected Members of the Senedd (MSs) and every Welsh citizen will have 5 Members of the Senedd representing them. How does this work? There are 40 constituency areas in Wales e.g. Wrexham, Cardiff West, Blaenau Gwent and each constituency has its own elected MS.

However, there are also five larger electoral regions in Wales (North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales West, South Wales Central and South Wales East) and each of these regions has a further four MSs representing the people in that region.

- Education
- Health
- Local government
- Transport
- Planning
- Economic development
- Social services
- Culture
- Welsh language
- Environment
- Agriculture and rural affairs

Areas that are reserved to the UK Parliament include home affairs such as gambling, slavery, policing and public order; trade and industry such as postal services, consumer protection, and rules around businesses; social security, foreign affairs, defence and justice. Charities and fundraising are reserved to UK Parliament.



Information

You can find out who the MSs are for your area by visiting the Senedd website:

[Senedd Wales](#)

Members of Parliament (MPs)

Even though Wales now has its own Senedd and can make some of its own laws, its powers are limited and it is important to note that Wales is still part of the UK.

This means that Wales still has 40 democratically elected **Members of Parliament (MPs)** serving in the **UK Parliament at Westminster**. The MPs are elected in the same 40 constituency areas as the constituency MSs, so there will be one MP representing you in your area.

The Wales Act 2017 amended the **Government of Wales Act 2006**, and switched Welsh devolution from the former conferred matters model to a reserved matters model, as used in Scotland.

The conferred matters model saw Westminster provide a list of areas the **National Assembly for Wales (now Senedd)** and **Welsh Government** could legislate in, whereas the reserved matters model instead sees the **UK Government** instead chooses a list of powers it reserves for itself, with Wales being responsible for the rest.

The list of responsibilities the UK Government has reserved includes

- The constitution
- Foreign affairs
- Currency
- Defence
- Media and culture
- Justice
- Employment law
- More specific topics such as Antarctica, outer space, and deep sea bed mining.



Information

You can find out who your MP is by visiting the UK Parliament website:

[UK Parliament](#)

Further Information

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

www.wcva.cymru

Write to Them

Write to Them

www.writetothem.com

Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru

Senedd

www.senedd.wales

UK Parliament

UK Parliament

www.parliament.uk



Cefnogi Trydydd
Sector **Cymru**

Third Sector
Support **Wales**

Third Sector Support Wales is a network of support organisations for the whole of the third sector in Wales.

It consists of the 19 local and regional support bodies across Wales, the County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) and the national support body, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

For further information contact
<https://thirdsectorsupport.wales/contact/>

Disclaimer

The information provided in this sheet is intended for guidance only. It is not a substitute for professional advice and we cannot accept any responsibility for loss occasioned as a result of any person acting or refraining from acting upon it.