



Welsh Language Act 1993

1993 CHAPTER 38

An Act to establish a Board having the function of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language, to provide for the preparation by public bodies of schemes giving effect to the principle that in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality, to make further provision relating to the Welsh language, to repeal certain spent enactments relating to Wales, and for connected purposes. [21st October 1993]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Act: functions of the Minister of the Crown (subject to art. 2(b)-(f) of the amending S.I.) transferred (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#)
- C2 Act modified (30.5.2007) by [The National Assembly for Wales Commission \(Crown Status\) \(No. 2\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1353\)](#), [art. 6\(1\)](#)

Commencement Information

- II Act wholly in force; Act partly in force at 21.12.1993 see [s.36](#); Act in force for specified purposes at 25.1.1994 and 1.2.1994 by [S.I. 1994/115](#), [art. 2](#)

PART I

THE BOARD

1 Establishment of the Board.

There shall be a body corporate to be known as Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg or the Welsh Language Board.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Welsh Language Act 1993 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

2 Membership of the Board.

- (1) The Board established under section 1 above (referred to in this Act as “the Board”) shall consist of not more than fifteen members appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (2) In exercising his power of appointment under subsection (1) above the Secretary of State shall have regard to the desirability of securing that, within the Board’s membership, there are reflected both the varying extent to which the Welsh language is used by those living in Wales, and the range of interests of the persons to whom the Board will offer advice.

3 Functions of the Board.

- (1) The Board shall have the function of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, the Board shall in carrying out the function mentioned there—
 - (a) advise the Secretary of State on matters concerning the Welsh language;
 - (b) advise persons exercising functions of a public nature on the ways in which effect may be given to the principle that, in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales, the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality;
 - (c) advise those and other persons providing services to the public on the use of the Welsh language in their dealings with the public in Wales.
- (3) Subject to the following provisions, the Board may do anything which is incidental or conducive to the performance of its functions, and may in particular—
 - (a) make grants and loans and give guarantees;
 - (b) make charges for the provision of advice or other services;
 - (c) accept gifts of money or other property.
- (4) The Board shall not—
 - (a) make a grant or loan,
 - (b) give a guarantee, or
 - (c) acquire or dispose of any interest in land,except with the approval of the Secretary of State given with the consent of the Treasury.

4 Supplementary provisions about the Board.

- (1) The Board shall comply with any general or special directions given to it by the Secretary of State, and shall give him such information about the exercise of its functions as he may require.
- (2) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the Board.

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PART II

WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME

Duty to prepare schemes

5 Duty of notified public bodies to prepare schemes.

- (1) Every public body to which a notice is given under section 7 below and which—
- (a) provides services to the public in Wales, or
 - (b) exercises statutory functions in relation to the provision by other public bodies of services to the public in Wales,
- shall prepare a scheme specifying the measures which it proposes to take, for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2) below, as to the use of the Welsh language in connection with the provision of those services, or of such of them as are specified in the notice.
- (2) The purpose referred to in subsection (1) above is that of giving effect, so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable, to the principle that in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality.
- (3) In preparing a scheme under this Part of this Act a public body shall have regard to any guidelines issued by the Board under section 9 below.

6 Meaning of “public body”. E+W

- (1) In this Part of this Act “public body” means—
- (a) a county council, [^{F1}county borough council,] district council or community council;
 - (b) a joint committee of two or more bodies within paragraph (a) above;
 - (c) a joint board of which the members are two or more bodies within paragraph (a) above;
 - [^{F2}(ca) a National Park authority;]
 - (d) a police authority;
 - [^{F3}(e) a fire and rescue authority constituted by a scheme under section 2 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 or a scheme to which section 4 of that Act applies;]
 - [^{F4}(f) a Health Authority established under section 8 of the ^{M1}National Health Service Act 1977 or a Special Health Authority established under section 11 of that Act;]
 - [^{F5}(ff) a Local Health Board established under section 16BA of the National Health Service Act 1977;]
 - (g) a National Health Service trust constituted under Part I of the ^{M2}National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990;
 - ^{F6}(h)
 - (i) a Community Health Council [^{F7}continued in existence by or established under section 20A] of the National Health Service Act 1977;
 - [^{F8}(ia) the Wales Centre for Health;]
 - (j) ^{F9}

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- (k) the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
 - [^{F10}(l) the governing body of a community, foundation or voluntary school or a community or foundation special school (within the meaning of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998);]
 - (m) a further education corporation established under section 15 or 16 of the ^{M3}Further and Higher Education Act 1992;
 - (n) a higher education corporation established under section 121 or 122 of the ^{M4}Education Reform Act 1988;
 - (o) any person (whether or not a body corporate or unincorporate)—
 - (i) who appears to the Secretary of State to be exercising functions of a public nature, or
 - (ii) all or substantially all of whose activities appear to the Secretary of State to be conducted under an agreement, or in accordance with arrangements, made with a public body within paragraphs (a) to (n) or sub-paragraph (i) above or a person acting as servant or agent of the Crown,
 and who is specified, or is of a description of persons specified, by order made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this Part of this Act.
- (2) The power to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Extent Information

- E1** This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland and Northern Ireland only

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 6(1)(a) inserted (3.4.1995) by 1994 c. 19, s. 66(6), **Sch. 16 para. 106(1)**; S.I. 1995/852, art. 9(1), **Sch. 5**
- F2** S. 6(1)(ca) inserted (23.11.1995) by 1995 c. 25, s. 78, **Sch. 10 para. 37**; S.I. 1995/2950, art. 2(1)
- F3** Words in s. 6(1)(e) substituted (E.W.) (1.10.2004 for E. and 10.11.2004 for W.) by **Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (c. 21)**, ss. 53, 61, **Sch. 1 para. 84**; S.I. 2004/2304, art. 2 (subject to art. 3); S.I. 2004/2917, art. 2
- F4** S. 6(1)(f) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 17, s. 2(1)(3), **Sch. 1 Pt. III**, para. 125(a)
- F5** S. 6(1)(ff) inserted (10.10.2002 for W. and 1.3.2007 for E.) by **National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (c. 17)**, s. 6(2), **Sch. 5 para. 37**; S.I. 2002/2532, art. 2; S.I. 2006/1407, art. 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 12(c)** (with art. 4)
- F6** S. 6(f) repealed (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 17, ss. 2(1), 5(1)(2), **Sch. 1 Pt. III**, para. 125(b), **Sch. 3**
- F7** Words in s. 6(1)(i) substituted (20.10.2003 for W. and 1.12.2003 for E.) by **Health (Wales) Act 2003 (c. 4)**, ss. 7, 10(2), **Sch. 3 para. 7**; S.I. 2003/2660, art. 2(1)(ii) (subject to art. 2(2)); S.I. 2003/3064, art. 2(1)(ii) (subject to art. 2(2))
- F8** S. 6(1)(ia) inserted (1.4.2005) by **Health (Wales) Act 2003 (c. 4)**, ss. 7, 10(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8**; S.I. 2003/2660, art. 3(2)
- F9** S. 6(1)(j) omitted (1.4.2006) by virtue of **The National Council for Education and Training for Wales (Transfer of Functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order 2005 (S.I. 2005/3238)**, arts. 1(1), 9(1), **Sch. 1 para. 29** (with transitional provision in art. 7)
- F10** S. 6(1)(l) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 50**; S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

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Marginal Citations

- M1** 1977 c. 49.
- M2** 1990 c. 19.
- M3** 1992 c. 13.
- M4** 1988 c. 40.

6 Meaning of “public body”. S+N.I.

(1) In this Part of this Act “public body” means—

- (a) a county council, [^{F1}county borough council,] district council or community council;
- (b) a joint committee of two or more bodies within paragraph (a) above;
- (c) a joint board of which the members are two or more bodies within paragraph (a) above;
- [^{F2}(ca) a National Park authority;]
- (d) a police authority;
- (e) a fire authority constituted by a combination scheme under the ^{M17}Fire Services Act 1947;
- [^{F4}(f) a Health Authority established under section 8 of the ^{M1}National Health Service Act 1977 or a Special Health Authority established under section 11 of that Act;]
- [^{F5}(ff) a Local Health Board established [under section 16BA of the National Health Service Act 1977;]
- (g) a National Health Service trust constituted under Part I of the ^{M2}National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990;
- ^{F6}(h)
- (i) a Community Health Council [^{F7}continued in existence by or established under section 20A] of the National Health Service Act 1977;
- [^{F8}(ia) the Wales Centre for Health;]
- (j) ^{F9}
- (k) the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- [^{F10}(l) the governing body of a community, foundation or voluntary school or a community or foundation special school (within the meaning of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998);]
- (m) a further education corporation established under section 15 or 16 of the ^{M3}Further and Higher Education Act 1992;
- (n) a higher education corporation established under section 121 or 122 of the ^{M4}Education Reform Act 1988;
- (o) any person (whether or not a body corporate or unincorporate)—
 - (i) who appears to the Secretary of State to be exercising functions of a public nature, or
 - (ii) all or substantially all of whose activities appear to the Secretary of State to be conducted under an agreement, or in accordance with arrangements, made with a public body within paragraphs (a) to (n) or sub-paragraph (i) above or a person acting as servant or agent of the Crown,

and who is specified, or is of a description of persons specified, by order made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this Part of this Act.

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- (2) The power to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

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- E2** This version of this provision extends to Scotland and Northern Ireland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only

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- F2** S. 6(1)(ca) inserted (23.11.1995) by 1995 c. 25, s. 78, **Sch. 10 para. 37**; S.I. 1995/2950, **art. 2(1)**
- F4** S. 6(1)(f) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 17, s. 2(1)(3), **Sch. 1 Pt. III**, para. 125(a)
- F5** S. 6(1)(ff) inserted (10.10.2002 for W. and 1.3.2007 for E.) by National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (c. 17), s. 6(2), **Sch. 5 para. 37**; S.I. 2002/2532, **art. 2**; S.I. 2006/1407, **art. 2, Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 12(c)** (with art. 4)
- F6** S. 6(f) repealed (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 17, ss. 2(1), 5(1)(2), **Sch. 1 Pt. III**, para. 125(b), **Sch. 3**
- F7** Words in s. 6(1)(i) substituted (20.10.2003 for W. and 1.12.2003 for E.) by Health (Wales) Act 2003 (c. 4), ss. 7, 10(2), **Sch. 3 para. 7**; S.I. 2003/2660, **art. 2(1)(ii)** (subject to art. 2(2)); S.I. 2003/3064, **art. 2(1)(ii)** (subject to art. 2(2))
- F8** S. 6(1)(ia) inserted (1.4.2005) by Health (Wales) Act 2003 (c. 4), ss. 7, 10(2), **Sch. 3 para. 8**; S.I. 2003/2660, **art. 3(2)**
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- F10** S. 6(1)(l) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 50**; S.I. 1999/2323, **art. 2(1), Sch. 1**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1977 c. 49.
M2 1990 c. 19.
M3 1992 c. 13.
M4 1988 c. 40.
M17 1947 c. 41.

7 Notices to public bodies.

- (1) The Board may give a notice in writing under this section to any public body.
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) above shall—
- state that the public body to which the notice is given is required to prepare a scheme in accordance with section 5 above;
 - specify a date before which that body is required to submit the scheme to the Board;
 - inform that body of its rights of objection under section 8(1) below.
- (3) The Board shall give a copy of the current guidelines issued under section 9 below to any public body to which it gives a notice under subsection (1) above.
- (4) Different notices may be given to a public body under this section in respect of different services.

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8 Objections to time limits for submitting schemes.

- (1) A person to whom the Board has given a notice under section 7 above may by notice in writing to the Board object to the date specified in the notice under section 7 as the date before which the scheme is to be submitted to the Board.
- (2) A notice under this section shall be given within such time as may be specified by the Board in the notice given by it under section 7 above.
- (3) A notice under this section shall give the reasons for any objection to which it relates.
- (4) On considering an objection made in accordance with this section, the Board may either dismiss it or propose an extension of the time limit concerned.
- (5) If the Board proposes an extension of the time limit and the objector agrees to the proposal, the notice under section 7 above shall have effect with the substitution of the agreed date.
- (6) If the Board dismisses the objection or the objector does not agree to a proposal made by the Board and, in either case, the objection is not withdrawn, the Board shall refer the objection to the Secretary of State.
- (7) The Board shall, on referring an objection to the Secretary of State, send him—
 - (a) a copy of the notice under section 7,
 - (b) a copy of the notice given by the objector under this section, and
 - (c) a statement of the Board's reasons for its decisions on the objection.
- (8) On a reference under this section the Secretary of State may confirm a decision of the Board to dismiss the objection, or may direct that the notice under section 7 above shall have effect with the substitution of a later date for the date referred to in subsection (1) above (and that later date may be the same as or later than any date proposed by the Board under this section).

Guidelines as to form and content of schemes

9 Duty to issue guidelines.

- (1) The Board shall issue guidelines as to the form and content of schemes to which this Part of this Act applies.
- (2) No guidelines shall be issued by the Board under this section unless a draft of them has been approved by the Secretary of State.
- (3) The Board shall arrange for any guidelines issued under this section to be published in such manner as it thinks fit.

10 Approval of guidelines.

- (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act the Board shall prepare a draft of any guidelines that it proposes to issue under section 9 above and shall send copies of the draft to—
 - (a) such persons likely to be required to prepare schemes, and
 - (b) such organisations representative of members of the public who may be affected by the schemes,

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as it considers appropriate.

- (2) After considering any representations made to it about the draft guidelines and making any amendments that it considers appropriate, the Board shall send a report on the representations and a copy of the draft to the Secretary of State.
- (3) After considering the Board's report and the draft guidelines, the Secretary of State may approve the draft, either unamended or with such amendments as he thinks fit.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament a copy of any draft guidelines received by him from the Board, with any amendments made by him under subsection (3) above.
- (5) If either House of Parliament passes a resolution requiring the draft to be withdrawn, the Board shall prepare a draft in substitution for the one to which the resolution relates; and this section shall apply in relation to the substituted draft as it applies in relation to the original.
- (6) No resolution shall be passed by either House of Parliament under subsection (5) above after the expiration of the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the draft was laid before that House; but for the purposes of this subsection no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.

11 Revision of guidelines.

The Board shall at such intervals as it thinks fit revise the guidelines issued by it under section 9 above, and that section and section 10 above shall apply in relation to the revised guidelines as they apply in relation to the guidelines first issued.

Preparation and approval of schemes

12 Preparation of schemes.

- (1) A public body to which the Board has given a notice under section 7 above shall submit a scheme to the Board before the date specified in the notice.
- (2) A scheme shall include provisions specifying—
 - (a) a time-table for giving effect to the measures proposed in the scheme;
 - (b) the ways in which the public body will ensure that the scheme is publicised.

13 Consultation on preparation of schemes.

- (1) A public body preparing a scheme for submission to the Board shall carry out such consultations as may be appropriate in order to ascertain views representative of both Welsh-speaking and other members of the public who may be affected by the scheme.
- (2) A public body shall comply with any directions given to it by the Board in connection with the performance of its duty under subsection (1) above.

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14 Approval or imposition of schemes.

- (1) If a scheme appears to the Board to be satisfactory, either as it is submitted to the Board or with modifications agreed between the Board and the public body submitting it, the Board shall approve the scheme.
- (2) If—
 - (a) no scheme is submitted to the Board before the date specified in the notice under section 7 above, or such later date as the Board may allow, or
 - (b) a scheme has been submitted before that date (or that later date) but has not been approved by the Board,the Board, or in a case within paragraph (b) above either the Board or the public body submitting the scheme, may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.
- (3) On a reference under subsection (2) above, the Secretary of State may, in a case within paragraph (a) of that subsection, request the public body concerned to submit a scheme to the Board before a date specified by the Secretary of State; and if he does so, this Part of this Act shall apply as if that date were substituted for the date specified by virtue of section 7(2)(b) above.
- (4) On a reference under subsection (2) above, the Secretary of State may, in a case within paragraph (b) of that subsection, request the Board and the public body concerned to try to reach agreement on the terms of a scheme before a date specified by the Secretary of State; and if he does so he shall not exercise his powers under subsection (5) below before that date.
- (5) On a reference under subsection (2) above, the Secretary of State may in any case himself decide upon the terms of a scheme; and if he does so—
 - (a) he shall send a copy of the scheme to the Board and to the public body concerned, and
 - (b) this Part of this Act shall then apply as if the scheme had been submitted by the body and approved by the Board.

Revision etc of schemes

15 Periodic revision of schemes.

- (1) At any time after the Board has in accordance with section 11 above issued revised guidelines under section 9 above, it may by notice in writing to any public body whose scheme it has approved require that body to review the scheme and submit to the Board a statement of its conclusions.
- (2) After receiving a statement under subsection (1) above, the Board may by notice in writing require the public body to submit a revised scheme to the Board before such date as may be specified in the notice.
- (3) Sections 12 to 14 above shall with the necessary modifications apply where a notice is given under subsection (2) above as they apply where a notice is given under section 7 above.

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16 Amendment of schemes.

- (1) Where a scheme prepared by a public body has been approved by the Board, either the public body or the Board may at any time by notice in writing to the other propose amendments to the scheme.
- (2) The Board shall not exercise the power conferred by subsection (1) above except where it is satisfied that amendments of the scheme are appropriate because of changes in the functions of the public body or in the circumstances in which those functions are carried out.
- (3) If the amendments proposed are agreed between the public body and the Board, either as proposed or with modifications, the scheme shall thereafter have effect subject to the amendments.
- (4) If the amendments are not agreed, either the public body or the Board may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.
- (5) On a reference under subsection (4) above, the Secretary of State may request the Board and the public body concerned to try to reach agreement on the amendments before a date specified by the Secretary of State; and if he does so he shall not exercise his powers under subsection (6) below before that date.
- (6) On a reference under subsection (4) above, the Secretary of State may—
 - (a) determine that no amendments should be made, or
 - (b) himself decide upon the amendments to be made to the scheme (which may be the amendments proposed, either with or without modifications, or other amendments).
- (7) Where in accordance with subsection (6) above the Secretary of State decides upon the amendments to be made to a scheme—
 - (a) he shall send a copy of the amendments to the Board and to the public body concerned, and
 - (b) the scheme shall thereafter have effect subject to the amendments.

Compliance with schemes

17 Investigations.

- (1) Where it appears to the Board, whether on a complaint made to it under section 18 below or otherwise, that a public body may have failed to carry out a scheme approved by the Board, the Board may conduct an investigation in order to ascertain whether there has been a failure.
- (2) The procedure for conducting an investigation under this section shall be such as the Board considers appropriate in the circumstances of the case, and in particular an investigation may be conducted in private.
- (3) The Board may, if it considers it appropriate to do so, pay to any person who attends or provides information for the purposes of an investigation—
 - (a) sums in respect of the expenses properly incurred by him, and
 - (b) allowances by way of compensation for the loss of his time,
 in accordance with such scales and subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury.

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18 Complaints of non-compliance.

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) a written complaint is made to the Board by a person who claims to have been directly affected by a failure of a public body to carry out a scheme approved by the Board,
 - (b) the complaint is made within the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which the complainant first knew of the matters alleged in the complaint, and
 - (c) the Board is satisfied that the complainant has brought the matter complained of to the notice of the public body concerned and that that body has had a reasonable opportunity to consider it and to respond.
- (2) Where this section applies, the Board shall either investigate that complaint under section 17 above or shall send to the complainant a statement of its reasons for not doing so.

19 Reports on investigations.

- (1) Where the Board undertakes an investigation under section 17 above, it shall send a report of the results of the investigation to the public body concerned, to the Secretary of State and, where the investigation is conducted on a complaint made under section 18 above, to the complainant (whether or not the complaint is withdrawn before the investigation is completed).
- (2) Where the Board considers that it would be appropriate for a report of the results of an investigation to be published, either in the form of the report made under subsection (1) above or in some other form, the Board may arrange for publication in such manner as it thinks fit.
- (3) Where on completing an investigation the Board is satisfied that the public body concerned has failed to carry out the scheme, the Board may include in its report recommendations as to action to be taken by the public body in order to remedy the failure or to avoid future failures.

20 Directions by Secretary of State.

- (1) If at any time it appears to the Board that a public body has failed to take any action recommended in a report under section 19 above, the Board may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.
- (2) If on a reference under this section the Secretary of State is satisfied, after considering any representations made to him by the Board and by the public body concerned, that the body has failed to take any action recommended in the report, he may give such directions to the public body as he considers appropriate.
- (3) Any directions given by the Secretary of State under subsection (2) above shall be enforceable, on an application made by him, by mandamus.

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The Crown

21 Persons acting on behalf of the Crown.

- (1) References in this Part of this Act to public bodies do not include references to any person acting as the servant or agent of the Crown; but the following provisions of this section shall apply where such a person has adopted or proposes to adopt a Welsh language scheme.
- (2) A person who has adopted a Welsh language scheme before the commencement of this Act shall send a copy of it to the Board.
- (3) A person preparing a Welsh language scheme after the commencement of this Act shall have regard to any guidelines issued by the Board under section 9 above, and shall before adopting it send the proposed scheme to the Board.
- (4) Where the Board suggests amendments to a scheme or proposed scheme sent by any person to the Board in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) above, that person shall, if he does not give effect to the amendments, send to the Board a written statement of the reasons for not doing so.
- (5) Sections 17 to 19 above shall apply in relation to persons to whom this section applies and to Welsh language schemes adopted by them as they apply to public bodies and schemes approved by the Board.
- (6) In this section “Welsh language scheme” means a scheme specifying measures which the person preparing the scheme proposes to take as to the use of the Welsh language in connection with the provision of services to the public in Wales by that person, or by others who are acting as servants or agents of the Crown or are public bodies.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS

PROSPECTIVE

Welsh in legal proceedings

22 Use of Welsh in legal proceedings.

- (1) In any legal proceedings in Wales the Welsh language may be spoken by any party, witness or other person who desires to use it, subject in the case of proceedings in a court other than a magistrates’ court to such prior notice as may be required by rules of court; and any necessary provision for interpretation shall be made accordingly.
- (2) Any power to make rules of court includes power to make provision as to the use, in proceedings in or having a connection with Wales, of documents in the Welsh language.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Welsh Language Act 1993 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

23 Oaths and affirmations.

[^{F11}(1)] The Lord Chancellor may [^{F12}, after consulting the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales,] make rules prescribing a translation in the Welsh language of any form for the time being prescribed by law as the form of any oath or affirmation to be administered and taken or made by any person in any court, and an oath or affirmation administered and taken or made in any court in Wales in the translation prescribed by such rules shall, without interpretation, be of the like effect as if it had been administered and taken or made in the English language.

[^{F13}(2) The Lord Chief Justice may nominate a judicial office holder (as defined in section 109(4) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005) to exercise his functions under this section.]

Textual Amendments

F11 S. 23 renumbered as s. 23(1) (3.4.2006) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15, 148, [Sch. 4 para. 232\(2\)](#); S.I. 2006/1014, [art. 2\(a\)](#), Sch. 1 para. 11(v)

F12 Words in s. 23(1) inserted (3.4.2006) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15, 148, [Sch. 4 para. 232\(3\)](#); S.I. 2006/1014, [art. 2\(a\)](#), Sch. 1 para. 11(v)

F13 S. 23(2) inserted (3.4.2006) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15, 148, [Sch. 4 para. 232\(4\)](#); S.I. 2006/1014, [art. 2\(a\)](#), Sch. 1 para. 11(v)

24 Provision of interpreters.

- (1) The Lord Chancellor may make rules as to the provision and employment of interpreters of the Welsh and English languages for the purposes of proceedings before courts in Wales.
- (2) The interpreters shall be paid, out of the same fund as the expenses of the court are payable, such remuneration in respect of their services as the Lord Chancellor may determine.
- (3) The Lord Chancellor's powers under this section shall be exercised with the consent of the Treasury.

Statutory names, forms etc

25 Powers to give Welsh names to statutory bodies etc.

- (1) Where a name is conferred by an Act of Parliament on any body, office or place, the appropriate Minister may by order confer on the body, office or place an alternative name in Welsh.
 - (2) Where an Act of Parliament gives power, exercisable by statutory instrument, to confer a name on any body, office or place, the power shall include power to confer alternative names in English and Welsh.
- [^{F14}(3) Subsection (1) above does not apply in relation to a name conferred on any area or local authority by the ^{M5}Local Government Act 1972.]

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Changes to legislation: Welsh Language Act 1993 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F14 S. 25(3) substituted (3.4.1995) by 1994 c. 19, s. 66(2)(6), **Sch. 16 para. 106(2)**; S.I. 1995/852, art. 9(1), **Sch. 5**

Marginal Citations

M5 1927 c. 70.

26 Powers to prescribe Welsh forms.

- (1) This section applies where an Act of Parliament specifies, or confers power to specify, —
- (a) the form of any document, or
 - (b) any form of words,
- which is to be or may be used for an official or public purpose or for any other purpose where the consequences in law of any act depend on the form used.
- (2) Where the Act itself specifies the form of the document or the form of words, the appropriate Minister may by order prescribe—
- (a) a form of the document in Welsh, or partly in Welsh and partly in English or, as the case may be,
 - (b) a form of words in Welsh,
- for use in such circumstances and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the order.
- (3) Where the Act confers a power to specify the form of the document or the form of words, the power shall include power to prescribe—
- (a) separate forms of the document, or separate forms of words, in Welsh and in English, and
 - (b) in the case of a document, a form partly in Welsh and partly in English,
- for use in such circumstances and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the instrument by which the power is exercised.
- (4) Where the powers conferred by this section are exercised in relation to the form of a document or a form of words, a reference in an Act or instrument to the form shall, so far as may be necessary, be construed as (or as including) a reference to the form prescribed under or by virtue of this section.
- (5) This section shall not apply in relation to a provision which—
- (a) confers, or gives power to confer, a name on any body, office or place, or
 - (b) requires specified words to be included in the name of any body, office or place.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 S. 26 applied (24.10.2002) by European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 (c. 24), **ss. 7(5), 18(2)**

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27 Provisions supplementary to sections 25 and 26.

- (1) Anything done in Welsh by virtue of section 26 above shall have the like effect as if done in English.
- (2) Any provision authorising—
 - (a) the use of a document or words to the like effect as a document or words of which another version is prescribed by virtue of section 26 above, or
 - (b) the adaptation of a document or words of which another version is so prescribed,shall apply in relation to both versions.
- (3) The powers to make orders under sections 25(1) and 26(2) above shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, which shall be laid before Parliament after being made.
- (4) References in sections 25 and 26 above to an Act of Parliament include references to Acts passed after this Act; and in those sections “the appropriate Minister” in relation to any Act means—
 - (a) in the case of provisions for the execution of which in Wales a Minister other than the Secretary of State is responsible, that Minister, and
 - (b) in any other case, the Secretary of State.
- (5) Any question arising under paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) above shall be determined by the Treasury; and in that subsection “Minister” includes the Treasury, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

28 Industrial and provident societies.

- (1) Section 5 of the ^{M6}Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 (name of society) shall be amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (2), for the words from “the word” to the end there shall be substituted the words “ the last word in the name of every society registered under this Act shall be “limited” or, if the rules of the society state that its registered office is to be in Wales, either that word or the word “cyfyngedig” ”.
- (3) In subsection (5)—
 - (a) after the words “contain the word “limited”” there shall be inserted the words “ or the word “cyfyngedig” ”,
 - (b) for the words “that word” there shall be substituted the words “ either of those words ”, and
 - (c) after the words “that the word “limited”” there shall be inserted the words “ , or in an appropriate case the word “cyfyngedig” , ”.

Marginal Citations

M6 1965 c. 12.

29 Credit unions.

- (1) Section 3 of the ^{M7}Credit Unions Act 1979 (use of name “credit union”, etc) shall be amended as follows.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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- (2) In subsection (1), there shall be added at the end the words “ or, if the rules of the society state that its registered office is to be in Wales, either those words or the words “undeb credyd” ”.
- (3) In subsection (2), after the words “ “credit union” or” there shall be inserted the words “ undeb credyd or ”.

Marginal Citations

M7 1979 c. 34.

Companies

30 Documents relating to Welsh companies.

- (1) The ^{M8}Companies Act 1985 shall be amended as follows.
- (2) Section 21 (registered documentation of Welsh companies) shall cease to have effect.
- (3) In section 228(2)(f) (under which the conditions for exemption from the requirement to provide group accounts include the provision of translations of certain documents), at the beginning there shall be inserted the words “ (subject to section 710B(6) (delivery of certain Welsh documents without a translation)) ”.
- (4) The words “ then, subject to section 710B(6) (delivery of certain Welsh documents without a translation), ” shall be inserted—
- after the words “other than English” in sections 242(1) and 243(4) and paragraph 7(3) of Part II of Schedule 9, and
 - after the words “does not apply” in sections 272(5) and 273(7),
- (all of which require certain documents in a language other than English to be delivered to the registrar with a translation).
- (5) Section 255E (accounting documents of Welsh private companies) shall cease to have effect.
- (6) After section 710A there shall be inserted—

“710B Documents relating to Welsh companies.

- (1) This section applies to any document which—
- is delivered to the registrar under this Act or the Insolvency Act 1986, and
 - relates to a company (whether already registered or to be registered) whose memorandum states that its registered office is to be situated in Wales.
- (2) A document to which this section applies may be in Welsh but, subject to subsection (3), shall on delivery to the registrar be accompanied by a certified translation into English.
- (3) The requirement for a translation imposed by subsection (2) shall not apply—

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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- (a) to documents of such descriptions as may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph, or
 - (b) to documents in a form prescribed in Welsh (or partly in Welsh and partly in English) by virtue of section 26 of the Welsh Language Act 1993.
- (4) Where by virtue of subsection (3) the registrar receives a document in Welsh without a certified translation into English, he shall, if that document is to be available for inspection, himself obtain such a translation; and that translation shall be treated as delivered to him in accordance with the same provision as the original.
- (5) A company whose memorandum states that its registered office is to be situated in Wales may deliver to the registrar a certified translation into Welsh of any document in English which relates to the company and which is or has been delivered to the registrar.
- (6) The provisions within subsection (7) (which require certified translations into English of certain documents delivered to the registrar) shall not apply where a translation is required by subsection (2) or would be required but for subsection (3).
- (7) The provisions within this subsection are section 228(2)(f), the second sentence of section 242(1), sections 243(4), 272(5) and 273(7) and paragraph 7(3) of Part II of Schedule 9.
- (8) In this section “certified translation” means a translation certified in the prescribed manner to be a correct translation.”.

Commencement Information

I2 S. 30 wholly in force; S. 30(1)(6) in force for certain purposes at 25.1.1994 and S. 30 in force insofar as not already in force at 1.2.1994 by S.I. 1994/115, art. 2(1)(2)

Marginal Citations

M8 1985 c. 6.

31 Publicity for limited liability status of Welsh companies.

In section 351 of the ^{M9}Companies Act 1985, subsections (3) and (4) (which require the status of a company whose name ends in “cwmni cyfyngedig cyhoeddus” or “cyfyngedig” to appear in English on certain documents) shall cease to have effect.

Marginal Citations

M9 1985 c. 6.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.
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Charities

32 Registered charities.

- (1) Section 5 of the ^{M10}Charities Act 1993 (which requires the status of a registered charity to appear in English on certain documents) shall be amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (2), the words “in English” shall be omitted.
- (3) After subsection (2), there shall be inserted—
 - “(2A) The statement required by subsection (2) above shall be in English, except that, in the case of a document which is otherwise wholly in Welsh, the statement may be in Welsh if it consists of or includes the words “elusen cofrestredig” (the Welsh equivalent of “registered charity”).”.
- (4) In subsection (4), for the words from “in which” to “stated as” there shall be substituted the words “ which does not contain the statement ”.
- (5) In subsection (5), for the words from “in which” to “stated as” there shall be substituted “ which does not contain the statement ”.

Marginal Citations

M10 1993 c. 10.

33 Statement of charitable status.

- (1) Section 68 of the Charities Act 1993 (which requires the status of a charity that is a company to appear in English on certain documents) shall be amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
 - (a) after the words “the word “charitable”” there shall be inserted the words “ then, subject to subsection (1A) ”, and
 - (b) the words “in English” shall be omitted.
- (3) After subsection (1), there shall be inserted—
 - “(1A) Where a company’s name includes the word “elusen” or the word “elusenno!” (the Welsh equivalents of the words “charity” and “charitable”), subsection (1) above shall not apply in relation to any document which is wholly in Welsh.
 - (1B) The statement required by subsection (1) above shall be in English, except that, in the case of a document which is otherwise wholly in Welsh, the statement may be in Welsh if it consists of or includes the word “elusen” or the word “elusenno!”.”.

Status: Point in time view as at 03/04/2006. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.
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Supplementary

34 Notices.

- (1) Any notice or other document required or authorised to be given or sent to the Board or to a public body under Part II of this Act may be sent by post to the principal office of the Board or of that public body.
- (2) Any notice required or authorised to be given to a member of the Board under Schedule 1 to this Act may be sent by post to the last known address of the member.
- (3) This section shall not be taken to exclude any method of giving or sending a notice or other document not expressly provided for by this section.

35 Repeals and consequential amendments.

- (1) The enactments mentioned in Schedule 2 to this Act (which include spent enactments) are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.
- (2) The ^{M11}Companies Act 1985 (Welsh Language Accounts) Regulations 1992 are hereby revoked.
- (3) ^{F15}
- (4) In the Appendix of forms in Schedule 1 to the Representation of the ^{M12}People Act 1983, in paragraph 2(a) of the directions as to printing the ballot paper, for the words from “except” to “and the” there shall be substituted the words “ except the direction to vote for one candidate only and the ”.
- (5) For section 22 of the Representation of the ^{M13}People Act 1985 (power to prescribe Welsh version of forms specified in certain rules and regulations) there shall be substituted—

“22 Welsh forms

Section 26 of the Welsh Language Act 1993 (power to prescribe Welsh forms of documents or words specified in Acts), except subsection (3), shall apply in relation to regulations made under the principal Act or this Act and rules made (or having effect as if made) under section 36 of the principal Act as it applies in relation to Acts of Parliament.”

Textual Amendments

- F15** S. 35(3) repealed (24.10.2002) by [European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 \(c. 24\)](#), ss. 16, 18(2), [Sch. 4](#)

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 35 wholly in force; S. 35 partly in force at 21.12.1993 see [s. 36\(1\)](#); [S. 35\(2\)](#) wholly in force at 1.2.1994 by [S.I. 1994/115](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M11** [S.I. 1992/1083](#)
M12 [1983 c. 2.](#)

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M13 1985 c. 50.

36 Commencement.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, this Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (2) Sections 30, 31 and 35(2), and the repeals made by this Act in the ^{M14}Companies Act 1985, shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may appoint by order made by statutory instrument; and different days may be appointed for different purposes.
- (3) An order under subsection (2) above may include such transitional provisions as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient.

Marginal Citations

M14 1985 c. 6.

37 Short title.

This Act may be cited as the Welsh Language Act 1993.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 4.

THE BOARD

Members

- 1 The Secretary of State shall appoint one of the members of the Board to be chairman of the Board.
- 2 (1) Subject to the following provisions, a member of the Board, and the chairman, shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
(2) A person may at any time resign his office as a member or as chairman of the Board by notice in writing addressed to the Secretary of State.
(3) The Secretary of State may remove a member from office by notice in writing if—
 - (a) the member has been absent from meetings of the Board for a period of three consecutive months without the Board’s consent, or
 - (b) a bankruptcy order has been made against the member, or his estate has been sequestrated, or he has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his creditors, or
 - (c) the Secretary of State is satisfied that the member is unable or unfit to discharge his functions as a member.
(4) If the chairman ceases to be a member of the Board he shall also cease to be chairman.

Remuneration of members

- 3 (1) The Board shall pay to its members such remuneration and allowances as the Secretary of State may determine.
(2) The Board may make such payments towards the provision of pensions to or in respect of its members as the Secretary of State may determine.
(3) If the Secretary of State determines that there are special circumstances which make it right that a person ceasing to hold office as a member of the Board should receive compensation, he may direct the Board to make to that person a payment of such amount as the Secretary of State may determine.
(4) The Secretary of State shall not make any determination under this paragraph without the approval of the Treasury.

Parliamentary disqualification

- 4 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the ^{M15}House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (bodies of which all members are disqualified) the following entry shall be inserted at the appropriate place— “ Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Board). ”

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Marginal Citations

M15 1975 c. 24.

Parliamentary Commissioner

F165

Textual Amendments

F16 Sch. 1 para. 5 repealed (1.7.1999) by 1998 c. 38, ss. 152, Sch. 18 Pt. I; S.I. 1999/1290, art. 4

Procedure

- 6 (1) The quorum of the Board and its procedure shall be such as the Board may determine.
- (2) The validity of any proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of any member or of the chairman, or by any vacancy in the office of chairman.
- (3) The Secretary of State or a person appointed by him may attend meetings of the Board.

Evidence

- 7 A document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the Board or to be signed on the Board's behalf shall be received in evidence and shall be deemed to be so executed or signed unless the contrary is proved.

Staff

- 8 In determining—
- (a) the number of the Board's staff,
 - (b) the remuneration, allowances and gratuities to be paid to or in respect of the staff, and
 - (c) the other terms and conditions of service of the staff,
- the Board shall act only with the approval of the Secretary of State given with the consent of the Treasury.
- 9 (1) Employment by the Board shall be included among the kinds of employment to which a scheme under section 1 of the ^{M16}Superannuation Act 1972 may apply; and, accordingly, in Schedule 1 to that Act (in which those kinds of employment are listed) at the end of the list of "Other Bodies" there shall be inserted— " Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Board). "
- (2) The Board shall pay to the Treasury, at such times as the Treasury may direct, such sums as the Treasury may determine in respect of the increase attributable to subparagraph (1) above in the sums payable out of money provided by Parliament under that Act.
- (3) Where a person employed by the Board—

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- (a) is, by reference to that employment, a participant in a scheme under section 1 of that Act, and
- (b) becomes a member of the Board,

then, with the approval of the Secretary of State given with the consent of the Treasury, the Board may determine that his term of office as a member shall be treated for the purposes of the scheme as employment by the Board (whether or not any benefits are payable to or in respect of him by virtue of paragraph 3(2) above).

Marginal Citations

M16 1972 c. 11.

Status

- 10 The Board shall not be regarded as the servant or agent of the Crown or as enjoying any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown; and the Board's property shall not be regarded as property of, or held on behalf of, the Crown.

Expenses

- 11 The expenses of the Board, up to such amount as may be approved by the Secretary of State with the consent of the Treasury, may be defrayed by the Secretary of State.

Accounts

- 12 (1) The Board shall keep proper accounts, and shall prepare a statement of accounts in respect of each accounting year.
(2) The statement of accounts shall contain such information and shall be in such form as the Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, direct.
(3) The Board shall send copies of the statement of accounts to the Secretary of State and to the Comptroller and Auditor General not later than the 31st August following the end of the accounting year to which the statement relates.
(4) The Comptroller and Auditor General shall examine, certify and report on the statement of accounts and shall lay copies of the statement and of his report before each House of Parliament.
(5) The Board's accounting year shall be the period of twelve months ending with 31st March, except that the first accounting year shall be the period beginning with the day on which the Board is established and ending with the second 31st March following that date.

Annual reports

- 13 (1) As soon as possible after the end of each accounting year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary of State a report on the discharge of its functions during that year.
(2) The Secretary of State shall lay a copy of the Board's annual report before each House of Parliament.

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SCHEDULE 2

Section 35.

REPEALS

Commencement Information

I4 Sch. 2 wholly in force: Sch. 2 partly in force at 21.12.1993 see s. 36(1); Sch. 2 wholly in force for specified purposes at 1.2.1994 by S.I. 1994/115, art. 2(2)

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
27 Hen. 8. c. 26.	The Laws in Wales Act 1535.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
34 & 35 Hen. 8. c. 26.	The Laws in Wales Act 1542.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed, except section 47.
9 & 10 Geo. 5. c. 21.	The Ministry of Health Act 1919.	Section 11(3).
5 & 6 Geo. 6. c. 40.	The Welsh Courts Act 1942.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
1967 c. 66.	The Welsh Language Act 1967.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
1977 c. 38.	The Administration of Justice Act 1977.	In Schedule 2, paragraph 2.
1985 c. 6.	The Companies Act 1985.	Section 21. In section 242(1) and 243(4) the words “Subject to section 255E (delivery of accounting documents in Welsh only),”. Section 255E. Section 351(3) and (4). In section 351(5), paragraph (c) and the word “and” immediately preceding it. In Schedule 9, in paragraph 7(3) of Part II, the words “Subject to section 255E (delivery of accounting documents in Welsh only),”.
1985 c. 50.	The Representation of the People Act 1985.	In Schedule 4, paragraph 85(a).
1993 c. 10.	The Charities Act 1993.	In sections 5(2) and 68(1), the words “in English”.

Status:

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Changes to legislation:

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