



# 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:—

### Annotations:

#### 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\(1\)](#)
- C3 Act modified (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), s. 156(2), [Sch. 12 para. 4](#); [S.I. 2012/969](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)

#### Commencement Information

- I1 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](#)

*Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.  
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**PART I**

**THE BOARD**

**F<sup>1</sup>1 Establishment of the Board.**

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**Annotations:**

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**Amendments (Textual)**

**F1** S. 1 repealed (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 143(5)(a)**, 156(2); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2(p)

**F<sup>2</sup>2 Membership of the Board.**

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**Annotations:**

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**Amendments (Textual)**

**F2** S. 2 repealed (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 143(5)(b)**, 156(2); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2(p)

**F<sup>3</sup>3 Functions of the Board.**

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**Annotations:**

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**Amendments (Textual)**

**F3** S. 3 repealed (1.6.2012 , 6.7.2015 for S.N.I. in so far as not already in force, 7.7.2015 for E.W. in so far as not already in force) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 144(3)(a)**, 156(2); S.I. 2012/1423, art. 2(c); S.I. 2015/1413, arts. 2(a), 3(e)

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**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C4** S. 3: transfer of functions (1.4.2012) by [The Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(Transfer of functions, Transitional and Consequential Provisions\) Order 2012 \(No. 990\)](#), arts. 1(2), **3**

**C5** S. 3: transfer of functions (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 143(2)**, 156(2); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2(p)

**C6** S. 3 functions abolished (1.6.2012 , 7.7.2015 in so far as not already in force) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 144(1)**, 156(2); S.I. 2012/1423, art. 2(b); S.I. 2015/1413, art. 3(e)

**4 Supplementary provisions about the Board.**

F<sup>4</sup>(1) .....

F<sup>5</sup>(2) .....

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**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

- F4** S. 4(1) repealed (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\), ss. 144\(3\)\(b\), 156\(2\); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2\(p\)](#)
- F5** S. 4(2) repealed (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\), ss. 143\(5\)\(c\), 156\(2\); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2\(p\)](#)

**<sup>F6</sup>PART II**

**WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME**

**Annotations:**

**Amendments (Textual)**

- F6** Pt. II repealed (6.7.2015 for S.N.I.) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\), ss. 145\(2\)\(a\), 156\(2\); S.I. 2015/1413, art. 2\(b\)](#)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C7** Pt. II excluded (7.7.2015) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\), ss. 144\(2\), 156\(2\); S.I. 2015/1413, art. 3\(e\)](#)

**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.

**23 Oaths and affirmations.**

[<sup>F7</sup>(1)] The Lord Chancellor may [<sup>F8</sup>, 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

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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.

[<sup>F9</sup>(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.]

#### Annotations:

##### Amendments (Textual)

- F7** 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)
- F8** 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)
- F9** 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.

[<sup>F10</sup>(3) Subsection (1) above does not apply in relation to a name conferred on any area or local authority by the <sup>M1</sup>Local Government Act 1972.]

#### Annotations:

##### Amendments (Textual)

- F10** 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**

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### Marginal Citations

M1 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.

### Annotations:

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C8** S. 26 applied (24.10.2002) by [European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 \(c. 24\)](#), **ss. 7(5)**, 18(2)
- C9** S. 26 applied (26.3.2015) by [Recall of MPs Act 2015 \(c. 25\)](#), **ss. 21(5)**, 24(1)(e)
- C10** S. 26 applied (17.12.2015) by [European Union Referendum Act 2015 \(c. 36\)](#), **ss. 9(6)**, 13(1)
- C11** S. 26(2) applied (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), s. 19(1), **Sch. 2 para. 10(4)**

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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.

**<sup>F11</sup>28 Industrial and provident societies.**

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<p><b>Annotations:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Amendments (Textual)</b></p> <p><b>F11</b> <a href="#">S. 28</a> repealed (1.8.2014) by <a href="#">Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 (c. 14)</a>, s. 154, <a href="#">Sch. 7</a> (with <a href="#">Sch. 5</a>)</p>
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**29 Credit unions.**

- (1) Section 3 of the <sup>M2</sup>Credit Unions Act 1979 (use of name “credit union”, etc) shall be amended as follows.
- (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 ”.

<p><b>Annotations:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Marginal Citations</b></p> <p><b>M2</b> <a href="#">1979 c. 34.</a></p>
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## Companies

### 30 Documents relating to Welsh companies.

F12 .....

#### Annotations:

#### Amendments (Textual)

F12 S. 30 repealed (1.1.2007) by Companies Act 2006 (c. 46), ss. 1295, 1300, Sch. 16; S.I. 2006/3428, art. 7(a), Sch. 2 Pt. 1 (as amended by S.I. 2007/3495, art. 11, Sch. 5 and S.I. 2008/2860, art. 6)

### 31 Publicity for limited liability status of Welsh companies.

In section 351 of the <sup>M3</sup>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.

#### Annotations:

#### Marginal Citations

M3 1985 c. 6.

## Charities

### F13 32 Registered charities.

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#### Annotations:

#### Amendments (Textual)

F13 Ss. 32, 33 repealed (14.3.2012) by Charities Act 2011 (c. 25), s. 355, Sch. 10 (with s. 20(2), Sch. 8)

### 33 Statement of charitable status.

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#### Annotations:

#### Amendments (Textual)

F13 Ss. 32, 33 repealed (14.3.2012) by Charities Act 2011 (c. 25), s. 355, Sch. 10 (with s. 20(2), Sch. 8)

## Supplementary

### 34 Notices.

F14(1) .....

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- F15(2) .....
- F16(3) .....

**Annotations:**

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**Amendments (Textual)**

**F14** S. 34(1) repealed (6.7.2015 for S.N.I.) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 145(2)(b)**, 156(2); S.I. 2015/1413, art. 2(b)

**F15** S. 34(2) repealed (1.4.2012) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 143(5)(d)**, 156(2); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2(p)

**F16** S. 34(3) repealed (6.7.2015 for S.N.I.) by [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(nawm 1\)](#), **ss. 145(2)(b)**, 156(2); S.I. 2015/1413, art. 2(b)

**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 <sup>M4</sup>Companies Act 1985 (Welsh Language Accounts) Regulations 1992 are hereby revoked.
- (3) <sup>F17</sup> .....
- (4) In the Appendix of forms in Schedule 1 to the Representation of the <sup>M5</sup>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 <sup>M6</sup>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.”

**Annotations:**

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**Amendments (Textual)**

**F17** S. 35(3) repealed (24.10.2002) by [European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 \(c. 24\)](#), **ss. 16, 18(2), Sch. 4**

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**Commencement Information**

**I2** 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)**



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**Marginal Citations**

- M4** [S.I. 1992/1083](#)  
**M5** [1983 c. 2.](#)  
**M6** [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 <sup>M7</sup>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.

**Annotations:**

**Marginal Citations**

- M7** [1985 c. 6.](#)

**37 Short title.**

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

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## SCHEDULES

### <sup>F18</sup>SCHEDULE 1

Section 4.

#### Annotations:

#### Amendments (Textual)

**F18** Sch. 1 repealed (1.4.2012) by Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (nawm 1), ss. 143(5)(e), 156(2); S.I. 2012/969, art. 2(p)

### SCHEDULE 2

Section 35.

#### REPEALS

#### Annotations:

#### Commencement Information

**I3** 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

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		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”.

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Pt. 2 functions abolished by [2011 nawm 1 s. 145\(1\)](#)
- s. 25 functions made exercisable concurrently or jointly with the Welsh Ministers by [2006 c. 32 Sch. 3A para. 1 \(as inserted\) by 2017 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 1](#)
- s. 26 functions made exercisable concurrently or jointly with the Welsh Ministers by [2006 c. 32 Sch. 3A para. 1 \(as inserted\) by 2017 c. 4 Sch. 4 para. 1](#)