

Referendum on returning devolved powers

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 1 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 1 November 2021

Reference: SR21/837-5

Petition Number: P-06-1193

Petition title: Ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum on returning devolved powers.

Text of petition:

The Senedd has no powers to call such a referendum to gauge public opinion about how devolved powers are perceived in Wales. However, they can ask the UK Government for permission to hold a referendum for the people of Wales.

Senedd Cymru (previously known as National Assembly for Wales) has been in place since 1999, based on a referendum held in 1997. We know from the recent independence referendum in Scotland that such a vote is considered "once-in-a-generation", and as such - 24 years later - it is only fair and right that the people of Wales are allowed to voice their opinions once more.

Some think that Wales should gain more powers and full independence, but others believe that a centralised power would be more effective - and cost-effective.

Using the current pandemic as an example, at the time of raising this petition Wales is lagging behind on rate of vaccination, as well as having had the second worst rate of COVID-19 infections in the world (previously reported as the worst, due to a [Welsh reporting error](#))

A centralised approach would have benefitted Wales greatly in comparison both in support and procedure.



1. Background

The National Assembly for Wales was created in 1999 following a referendum in 1997. A further referendum was held in 2011 where 63.5% of voters were in favour of expanding the then Assembly's law making powers.

The Wales Act 2017 amended the Government of Wales Act 2006 to enshrine Senedd Cymru, the Welsh Government and the laws they make as a permanent part of the UK's constitutional arrangements.

It further provided that the Senedd and the Welsh Government are 'not to be abolished except on the basis of a decision of the people of Wales voting in a referendum'. An Act of the UK Parliament would be required to hold such a referendum.

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