

Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol ac Arolygiaethau
Corporate Services and Inspectorates



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: 250227/PAT

27 February 2025

Dear Mr Isherwood,

Public Appointments

Further to my letter of 20 December 2024 in which I committed to updating the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee on the work being undertaken to determine the Welsh language assessment of our board members, I am writing with the results of a recent short survey.

This survey was issued in January 2025 to capture data from Public Sector Bodies listed in the Order in Council as following the Governance Code on Public Appointments. We received 188 responses, which is an approximate response rate of 47% of all Board Members.

The tables below provide a breakdown of Welsh language skills across four categories - listening, reading, speaking and writing. The information is presented as 'total responses' as further breakdowns may be disclosive of individuals identities.

This data is for the information of the members of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee and we kindly request that it is not released into the public domain.

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The Committee will be aware that the data in the 'Evidence Paper on Public Appointments', which was submitted ahead of the evidence session with Welsh Government on 17 October 2024, reported that 27.3% of appointees for the period of 17 July 2023 to 16 July 2024 were advanced Welsh speakers. By comparison, the results of this survey (as detailed in the tables above) captured data from current boards, many of whom were appointed prior to 17 July 2023.

Estimates of Welsh language ability at a population level vary across surveys. The 2021 Census reported that 17.8% of the population were able to speak Welsh, while the 2023 Annual Population Survey put the figure at 29.2%. As such, it appears that Welsh language ability among board members is approximately in line with, or higher than, the population figures.

The results of this survey are in line with Action 1.1 of the Reflecting Wales in Running Wales strategy and allow us to establish a baseline to guide future action. We will incorporate Welsh language proficiency into future data collection efforts for board members going forward.

I hope this is helpful to the Committee in considering its Inquiry into Public Appointments.

Yours sincerely



Tim Moss
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Director General and Chief Operating Officer
Welsh Government