

Easy Read

Creating a Parliament for Wales

Report of what people told us



This is an easy read version of National Assembly for Wales' **Creating a Parliament for Wales Consultation Report**. October 2018

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How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



You may need help and support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Some words may be difficult to understand. These are in **bold blue writing** and have been explained in a box below the word. If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**. A list of hard words is on page 30.



Before you read this report please read [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think](#) and [Creating a Parliament for Wales Easy Read Response Form](#).



These documents give information on the issues we asked for people's views on. Reading them will help you understand what is in this report. The consultation has closed so you cannot respond now.



Where the document says **we**, this means **National Assembly for Wales**. For more information contact:



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This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

About this report



In February 2018 we asked people to read [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think.](#)



This was about ideas for changes to the National Assembly for Wales.



We asked people in Wales what their views were about the changes.

People gave their views in different ways including:



- a response form



- on the internet



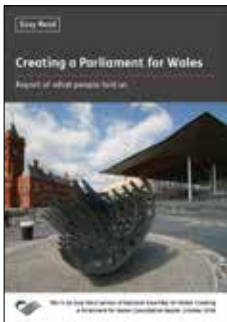
- at events.



We got more than 3,200 responses to the questions.



People answered the questions they wanted to. Not everyone answered all of them. The responses were from people and organisations in Wales.



This is a report on what people told us.



We will use what people have told us to make decisions about the changes we want to make.

The number of Assembly Members



We asked what people thought about how many **Assembly Members** we need.

Assembly Members are the people who are elected to the National Assembly for Wales.



You can read about our ideas for this on pages 9-11 in [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think.](#)



This is what the people who responded to this question said:



- 56 out of every 100 responses said we need more **Assembly Members**.



- 39 out of every 100 responses said we do **not** need more **Assembly Members**.



- 5 out of every 100 responses said they did not know.



Out of the people that said we need more **Assembly Members** most said that we need 80 to 90 **Assembly Members**.



People think some of the benefits of having more **Assembly Members** would be:



- To get views from different people.



- To provide a stronger voice for Wales.



- It would help to check the Welsh Government and what they do.



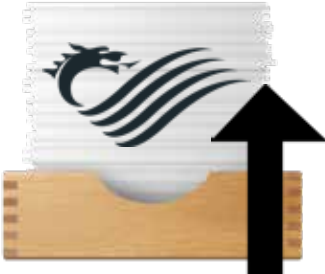
- There would be better **debates**.



A **debate** is where different views are talked about. There may be a vote about them to make a decision.



- Better laws for Wales.



Some responses thought that the Assembly will have to work on more things in the future.



Some responses were worried about the cost of more **Assembly Members**.

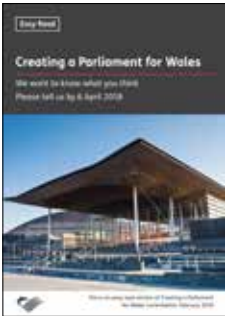


Some responses were worried that the extra cost would mean that less money would be available for other services such as education or health.

How Assembly Members are elected



We asked what people thought about changing the way we vote for [Assembly Members](#).



You can read about our ideas for this on pages 12-21 in [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think](#).



This is what people said about which voting system would be best:



54 out of every 100 responses would prefer a **Single Transferable Vote** system:

Single Transferable Vote (STV)

In this system voters rank the candidates in the order they like them best.

For example, number 1 would be their favourite candidate. Number 2 would be their 2nd favourite.



Each **constituency** would choose more than 1 person to represent them.

Your **constituency** is your local area represented in the National Assembly.

There are 40 **constituencies** in Wales. For example, Caerphilly is a **constituency** in south Wales and Wrexham is a **constituency** in north Wales.



Some of the reasons given for choosing the **Single Transferable Vote** system were:



- More choice for voters.



- Easier to use.



- It is fairer.



17 out of every 100 responses would prefer **Flexible List Proportional Representation**.



Flexible List Proportional Representation

In this system voters choose from a list of **political parties** and candidates.

A **political party** is a group who agree how to make life better for people. They come together and have a candidate for an election.





Political parties in the Assembly include:

- Plaid Cymru
- UK Independence Party (UKIP)
- Welsh Conservatives
- Welsh Labour
- Welsh Liberal Democrats.

In the **Flexible List Proportional Representation** system the **parties** choose what order their candidates are listed.

Voters can choose to vote for the **party's** order. Or voters can vote for their favourite candidate.

If enough voters choose the same candidate, that candidate goes to the top of the list.

If not enough voters choose the same candidate, then candidates stay in the order chosen by the **party**.

This is used to choose which candidates get the seats.



16 out of every 100 responses would prefer the **Mixed Member Proportional** system.



The **Mixed Member Proportional** system is a way of organising how a parliament is made up of elected members. It is easier to call it the **MMP system**.

In the **MMP** system you have 2 votes. Your 1st vote is for the person you want to represent your **constituency**.

The 2nd vote you get is for a **political party** to represent your **region**.

There are 5 National Assembly **regions**:

- North Wales
- Mid and West Wales
- South Wales West
- South Wales Central
- South Wales East.

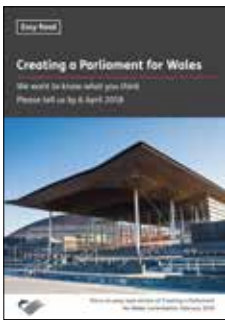




13 out of every 100 responses did not have a favourite option of the 3 we suggested.



We asked other questions about electing [Assembly Members](#).



You can read about our ideas on pages 24 and 25 of [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think](#).



This is what people said:



- Most responses said changes need to be made to help make the Assembly more **diverse**.

Diverse means having people from different groups. For example men and women or old and young.



- Just over half of responses said **Assembly Members** should not be allowed to **job share**.



Job sharing is where 2 people share the work of 1 job role.



- Some responses who agreed with **job sharing** said it would help more people stand for election.



- Some responses who did **not** agree with **job sharing** said the job is too important to be shared.

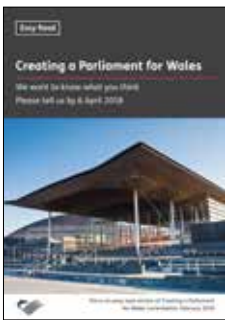
Who should be allowed to vote in Assembly elections?



We asked if the same people who vote in **local government elections** should be able to vote in the National Assembly elections.



Local government elections are where you vote for who you want to run your local council.



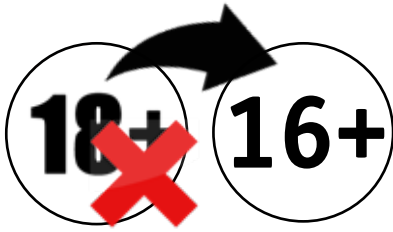
You can read about our ideas for this on pages 26-31 in [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think.](#)



This is what the people who responded to this question said:



86 out of every 100 responses said the same people should be allowed to vote in the National Assembly for Wales elections as the **local government elections**.



59 out of every 100 responses thought the age people can start voting should be 16 years old.



Some of the reasons given for letting people vote at age 16 were:



- More people would vote.



- The voices of young people would be heard.



- Young people would be more likely to keep voting as adults.



- Better education about politics would help young people vote. Young people would learn more about being a part of society.



But some responses thought young people may not be ready to vote.



And some responses were worried about the cost of lowering the voting age.



66 out of every 100 responses thought that everyone who lives in Wales legally, wherever they were born should be able to vote.



54 out of every 100 responses thought that prisoners who have been allowed to leave prison for a short time or who live at home under strict rules should be able to vote.



34 out of every 100 responses thought that these prisoners should **not** have the right to vote.



49 out of every 100 responses said prisoners should be allowed to vote in an Assembly election if they are leaving prison before the next election.



37 out of every 100 responses thought that these prisoners should not have the right to vote.



1 reason given by some responses for this was because losing some rights is part of the punishment.



The **Wales Electoral Coordination Board** said that any changes to the law on who can vote in Assembly elections would need to be made by 2020.



The **Wales Electoral Coordination Board** help to run and manage events and activities to do with elections.

Who should be able to be an Assembly Member?



We asked if we should change the law to make it easier for people with certain jobs to stand for election.



This would mean people who do certain jobs would not have to quit their jobs before they stand for election.



You can read about this on page 32 in [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think.](#)



This is what the people who responded to this question said:



34 out of every 100 responses agreed that people who do certain jobs should **not** have to quit their jobs before they stand for election.



13 out of 100 responses disagreed and said they should have to quit.



All the other responses did not agree or disagree. In the other responses people said:



- What they thought about our ideas without agreeing or disagreeing.

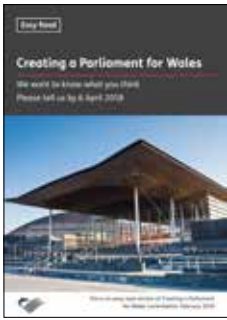


- They did not understand the question.



- They were not sure what was best.

Running elections



We asked people if we should change the rules for running elections. You can read about this on pages 33 and 34 in [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think](#).



We asked:



Do you think the money it costs to translate things between Welsh and English should not be included in how much **political parties** are allowed to spend in elections?



This is what the people who responded to this question said:



- 71 out of every 100 responses agreed it should **not** count.



- 1 of the reasons was that Wales has 2 languages so they should both be used equally.



We asked:



Do you think the money spent because a person has a disability should not be included in how much **political parties** are allowed to spend in elections?



- 86 out of every 100 people agreed it should **not** count.



- The most common reason given was to help make sure people are treated equally.



We asked:



Do you think we should make changes to the law about how National Assembly elections are run?

The changes would help us make the law about elections better in ways suggested by the **Law Commission**.



The **Law Commission** looks at the law and suggests changes to make it better. They are an independent organisation.



- 57 out of every 100 responses agreed with this.



- People trusted that the changes are needed because the **Law Commission** said they were.



- 4 out of 100 responses disagreed with making the changes.

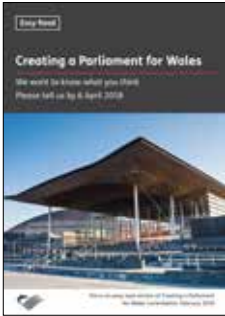


- 15 out of 100 people said they needed to think about it more. Or they did not understand.

Making changes to how the National Assembly is run



We asked if we should change the law to have more control over how the National Assembly is run.



You can read about this on page 35 of [Creating a Parliament for Wales – We want to know what you think.](#)



This is what the people who responded to this question said:



- 60 out of every 100 responses said yes we should change the law.



- Many responses thought this would help the National Assembly run better.



- Some responses said the public should be asked more about this before we make changes.



- A small number of responses were worried about costs.



- Some responses said all **political parties** should have a say on any changes made.



- Some responses did not think the law should be changed.

What differences could the changes make?



We asked if the changes would make a difference:



- to different groups of people



- for the Welsh and English languages



- to how the law works in England and Wales.



Some responses told us about the difference the changes could have for these things. Other responses told us about other differences the changes could make.



Some responses thought changes could make a difference.



Some responses said the changes would be better for Wales.



Some responses said the changes would help make Wales be more independent.



Some responses were worried about costs to the National Assembly for Wales and to people who pay tax.



A number of responses wanted Wales to be in charge of the police and prisons.



About the same number of responses said they wanted the Welsh language to be used more as did not want it to be used more.



Some responses said the changes would help make the Welsh language be used more.

Hard words

Assembly Member

Assembly Members are the people who are elected to the National Assembly for Wales.

Constituency

Your constituency is your local area represented in the National Assembly.

There are 40 constituencies in Wales. For example, Caerphilly is a constituency in south Wales and Wrexham is a constituency in north Wales.

Debate

A debate is where different views are talked about. There may be a vote about them to make a decision.

Diverse

Diverse means having people from different groups. For example men and women or old and young.

Flexible List Proportional Representation

In this system voters choose from a list of political parties and candidates.

Parties choose what order their candidates are listed. Voters can choose to vote for the party's order. Or voters can vote for their favourite candidate.

If enough voters choose the same candidate, that candidate goes to the top of the list.

If not enough voters choose the same candidate, then candidates stay in the order chosen by the party.

This is used to choose which candidates get the seats.

Job sharing

Job sharing is where 2 people share the work of 1 job role.

Law Commission

The Law Commission looks at the law and suggests changes to make it better. They are an independent organisation.

Local government elections

Local government elections are where you vote for who you want to run your local council.

Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system

The Mixed Member Proportional system is a way of organising how a parliament is made up of elected members. It is easier to call it the MMP system.

In the MMP system you have 2 votes. Your 1st vote is for the person you want to represent your constituency.

The 2nd vote you get is for a political party to represent your region.

Political party

A political party is a group who agree how to make life better for people. They come together and have a candidate for an election.

Political parties in the Assembly include:

- Plaid Cymru
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- Welsh Conservatives
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Region

There are 5 National Assembly regions:

- North Wales
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Single Transferable Vote (STV)

In this system voters rank the candidates in the order they like them best.

For example, number 1 would be their favourite candidate. Number 2 would be their 2nd favourite.

Each constituency would choose more than 1 person to represent them.

Wales Electoral Coordination Board

The Wales Electoral Coordination Board help to run and manage events and activities to do with elections.