Cymraeg for All?

Response to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee's report

March 2026

This document presents the Welsh Government's formal response to the report *Cymraeg for All?* issued by the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee. The report was published on 4 February 2026.

The response provides clarity on where recommendations are accepted, accepted in principle, or noted, and describes the actions already underway or planned to support the continued growth and use of the Welsh language and reaffirms the Government's determination to deliver Cymraeg 2050.

Contents

1. Responses to the Reccomendations

Recommendation 1

Develop a strategic legacy framework and dedicated legacy funding: The Welsh Government, in partnership with local authorities and key stakeholders, should develop a clear framework to guide post-festival legacy planning. This would ensure that momentum generated by key national and regional Welsh language festivals translates into sustained activity in subsequent years.

Response: Accept

We note that the development of a strategic legacy framework for the National Eisteddfod is already underway since the Cabinet Secretary's last appearance before the Committee. The framework will outline the role of the Eisteddfod as a catalyst for social, linguistic, cultural and economic change, as well as outlining the crucial roles of partners working strategically towards securing a legacy for the National Eisteddfod.

The framework will recognise that the festival's legacy extends far beyond the week on the maes, and includes impact on education, communities, inclusion, digital culture, local cultural groups, volunteering, the local economy, and of course, the Welsh language. We will consider a two-tier approach to collaboration, with a national strategic outlook alongside local structures to set priorities, ensure consistency, and strengthen the integration of language planning and community development through the lens of the Eisteddfod's journey. Through this approach, the Government aims to ensure that the momentum created by national and regional festivals is translated into a sustainable activity that contributes directly to the wider *Cymraeg 2050* objectives. In conjunction with the Eisteddfod, it is intended to publish the framework soon.

The strategic legacy framework for the Eisteddfod, will also be a catalyst for discussions and the basis for a national way of working towards securing a legacy for other festivals. We will work closely with all festivals that receive Welsh Government funding to incorporate legacy considerations into the objectives of their grants. Rather than announcing new bespoke funding for legacy work, we believe that incorporating this approach into existing grant schemes should be the priority, in order to make the best use of the public money that is already part of the events landscape.

Recommendation 2

Establish a dedicated fund for legacy work: The Welsh Government should establish a small, dedicated fund to support the mentrau iaith and key partners with activities and legacy initiatives for the first year after a national eisteddfod has visited. The fund should focus on areas with a lower-density of Welsh speakers, or areas that require intensive interventions. This would enable the mentrau iaith and partner bodies to access specific targeted funding to build on the success of major festivals

Response: Accept in Principle

The budget for 2026–27 has already been agreed. Nevertheless, in line with Recommendation 1, we will continue to work with our range of key stakeholders as we implement a legacy framework

Recommendation 3

Ensure free or low-cost access: The Welsh Government should continually monitor the sufficiency of funding provided to the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod to enable free or low-cost entry for low-income households to key national Welsh language festivals.

Response: Accept

We agree. The baseline of our core grants to the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd includes funding for the purpose of widening access to the eisteddfodau to low-income households. This will facilitate access for individuals from those households.

Recommendation 4

The Welsh Government should, with the support of partners, commission research and evaluation of the impact of local and national Welsh language festivals and events on language use and confidence in our communities and schools. This is particularly important in areas with a lower density of Welsh-speakers. Findings should inform future policy and investment decisions.

Response: Accept in Principle

The Welsh Government recognises the importance of understanding the impact of Welsh language festivals and events on people's language use in communities and schools. Our delivery partners are already collecting and reporting data on the impact of their events through Cymraeg 2050 grant management systems, and this evidence often shows that positive experiences at Welsh events can drive greater social use of the Welsh language – especially among new speakers and those who usually do not have regular opportunities to use the language.

In order to respond to the Committee's recommendation, we will continue to work with our partners to strengthen our ability to measure the impact of events on the Welsh language, ensuring that areas with a lower density of speakers also receive specific attention in the development of our monitoring and evaluation methods.

Recommendation 5

Strengthen open data initiatives and remove barriers to sharing: The Welsh Government must ensure it strengthens public sector open-data initiatives, and addresses GDPR-related barriers to responsible data sharing to support the development of Welsh language technology.

Response: Accept

In our **technology and artificial intelligence (AI) priorities**, we are committed to improving AI and other technologies by sharing more data. We are already sharing Welsh language data with projects around the world such as **AINA,** which is led by the Catalan Government and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, and we are encouraging other organisations to do so as well. This can be directly by sending a formal offer to Microsoft as part of our partnership or by openly licensing suitable data. We will continue to consider good data sharing practices responsibly in the future.

Recommendation 6

The Welsh Government should move from annual funding cycles to multi-year models to aid the development of Welsh language technology. Longer-term funding models would support key institutions such as Canolfan Bedwyr to plan projects that span multiple financial years.

Response: Accept

We have already confirmed this year that we will be moving from an annual funding cycle to funding grant recipients over a period of up to three years. This will happen from April onwards. This ensures that our Grant Scheme aligns with the Welsh Government's longer-term funding policy and gives grant recipients greater certainty in planning their work programmes.

Recommendation 7

Support community-led initiatives: The Welsh Government should provide targeted funding, similar to its Perthyn scheme, to enable community organisations and grass-roots clubs to develop innovative ways to introduce Welsh language opportunities. The main focus of any such funding should be on supporting grass-roots clubs in areas with a lower-density of Welsh speakers.

Response: Accept in Principle

The budget for 2026–27 has already been agreed. Nevertheless, in line with Recommendation 1, we will continue to work with our range of key stakeholders in this sector.

The Perthyn grant scheme already supports and assists community groups to develop projects into viable social enterprises. The fund already offers opportunities to think of innovative ideas to meet economic, social and linguistic needs in our communities. Within the current financial year the Perthyn grant scheme has been extended to be an all-Wales scheme and interest and applications have already been submitted by community groups from lower density areas. Perthyn offers opportunities for groups to develop schemes where the Welsh language is central to their aim and objectives and therefore creates new spaces for people to use Welsh.

2. Conclusions

Since conclusions 1, 2, and 3 address related concerns, we have offered one comprehensive reply covering the central topics discussed in all three.

Conclusion 1

Increasing Welsh language use requires a holistic approach that combines cultural, social, and policy interventions. Whilst individual motivation to learn and use the language is personal, evidence shows that creating accessible, inclusive opportunities through events and local networks, can significantly influence behaviour and confidence to use the language. Cultural events and festivals where people are immersed in the language are vital, but there is also a need to enable more bilingual spaces, particularly in areas with fewer Welsh speakers. Supporting event and festival organisers to adopt a bilingual ethos will help to normalise the Welsh language, ensuring that it is both heard and seen wherever you are in Wales

Conclusion 2

Welsh language festivals and events are vital enablers for promoting and normalising Welsh, particularly in areas with a lower density of Welsh speakers. They generate powerful, positive experiences that raise confidence, visibility, and willingness to use the language. To maximise their impact, however, these events must be embedded within a wider strategic framework, properly resourced and with engagement that reaches the whole community, not simply the engaged few.

Conclusion 3

The Committee believes that stronger partnership working between national bodies (including the National Eisteddfod, the Urdd, the National Centre for Learning Welsh, and the Arts Council of Wales), local authorities, mentrau iaith, community organisations, and anchor institutions such as sports bodies, should be underpinned by dedicated legacy funding and clearly defined roles. This approach will protect against resource strain at local level, enable the scaling-up of successful initiatives, and ensure that the momentum generated by festivals translates into lasting increases in Welsh language use in our communities and schools..

We agree with the Committee's conclusion and agree with the importance of having a holistic approach that combines cultural, community and policy interventions in order to increase the use of the Welsh language. As already

noted in our response, evidence from our partners shows that accessible and inclusive Welsh language events can have a significant impact on people's confidence and use of the language, particularly among new speakers and those who usually do not have regular opportunities to use them.

In addition, we agree that cultural events and festivals – where immersion in the language occurs naturally – are crucial. We also recognise the need to expand the provision of bilingual spaces in areas with a lower density of Welsh speakers. By continuing to work with event organisers to promote a bilingual and Welsh ethos, we can normalise the Welsh language in all parts of Wales.

Conclusion 4

The early work undertaken to prepare the foundations for Welsh language technology means that Wales is well-positioned to maximise on the opportunities in advancements in technology, in particular, AI. Converting this strategic position to increase everyday use of Welsh language technology is key. The Welsh Government should prioritise:

- **an agile and responsive policy framework;**

Following **the final report of the Welsh language technology action plan,** we issued **a call for information to** ask people what they needed in terms of Welsh language technology for the future. Based on the responses, we are now operating **under three priorities for Welsh language technology and artificial intelligence (AI),** namely:

- technology as a way of increasing the daily use of Welsh;
- ensuring that everyone has access to Welsh language technology;
- improving artificial intelligence (AI) and speech technologies (through data sharing and other ways).

Our technology grants will focus on these priorities from 2026-27 onwards and we are constantly looking to the horizon in terms of technological advances so that we can re-prioritise future funding if necessary. One example of how we have anticipated and responded to such developments is our work to prioritise preparations for AI back in 2018 in our Welsh language technology action plan. We are now working regularly with the AI Office to explore all sorts of links with our work across Government and beyond.

- **refined Welsh language standards to be imposed on public bodies to reflect the new technological context (where necessary, through legislation);**

In developing Welsh language standards regulations, Welsh Ministers consider how to ensure that regulations are fit for purpose and include up-to-date

approaches that bodies have of providing services to their users. For example, new standards have been introduced in the **Welsh Language Standards (No.9) Regulations 2023** which enable the imposition of duties in relation to online chat facilities. The Welsh Language Standards (No.10) Regulations 2026 which have now been laid in the Senedd also include those duties as well as a new standard around audio and video content. The Government will continue to consider new technological developments in the preparation of future standards regulations.

- **a multi-year funding model that aligns with digital delivery programmes;**

See recommendation 6.

- **stronger open data paths;**

We will continue to promote a working mode that ensures that access to high-quality Welsh language data and components is free. We already support the open publication of data and components through our technology grants. The work we are funding through Bangor University's Language Technologies Unit, for example, is published on the GitHub and Hugging Face platforms. The Welsh Government's Translation Service also shares translation and terminology memories through **BydTermCymru.** We will work with organisations to encourage more Welsh language data to be made available to feed technological developments, and we will continue to consider good data sharing practice responsibly in the future.

- **investment in the workforce of Welsh developers;**

It is a grant to Bangor University's Language Technologies Unit and others to develop Welsh language technology now available over a longer term. This allows us to hold strategic discussions about planning the Welsh language technology workforce for the future.

- **extended research and measuring the use of Welsh language technology;**

In January 2026, we published **Areas of Research Interest: Cymraeg 2050**. We want to work with the research community to build a robust evidence base for Cymraeg 2050 and this document outlines the research questions that we believe will help to advance the Cymraeg 2050 agenda. It includes a specific section on technology and the Welsh language. We also ask questions about the use of technology in statistical surveys we conduct.

- **targeted actions to improve the ease of finding Welsh content, and the plurality of Welsh content.**

The focus remains on digital content that responds to changing audience habits. It is therefore essential that Welsh content is easy to find. We work with Ofcom,

the UK Government and broadcasters to support the digital visibility of Welsh language content and its availability across a range of platforms.

Conclusion 5

Welsh language apps and content struggle against algorithms which give the most popular, invariably English language, apps prominence. Seeking new and innovative ways to promote Welsh language and bilingual apps and content, particularly for young people, is essential. Whilst much of this may be outside the scope of what the Welsh Government can do, it can support partner organisations to work with developers and content creators to improve discoverability and content plurality.

AI offers new opportunities to make it easier to find Welsh-language content, but this alone is not enough. That's why we're constantly engaging with tech companies to discuss such issues. We are also in discussions with other organisations interested in this area.

Conclusion 6

There is a need for public policy to focus on increasing workplace Welsh, supporting private sector bodies in addition to the public sector. The Act provides an opportunity to engage positively with organisations and businesses as the CEFR is introduced. A package of support, which includes providing businesses and employees with access to resources and training via the National Centre for Learning Welsh should be combined with opportunities to share good practice

The Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025 requires the Welsh language strategy to include targets for increasing the use of the Welsh language, including workplace and social use. That includes within private sector workplaces. Welsh Ministers will provide clear guidance to the workplace sector on the steps they will need to take to meet those targets.

The Welsh Language Commissioner, and the National Centre for Learning Welsh, are already offering guidance and support to the private sector on how to increase the use of Welsh. The Commissioner works with private sector bodies and shares good practice on how to improve the Welsh language services they offer to their customers. They have developed the Cynnig Cymraeg scheme which gives official recognition to private sector bodies that offer Welsh language services.

The National Centre for Learning Welsh supports businesses and public bodies to develop the Welsh language skills of their workforce through the Cymraeg Gwaith scheme. Cymraeg Gwaith offers diverse, flexible, fully funded training to

employers. Provision ranges from online taster courses to intensive residential courses, as well as confidence-building courses. Some courses are specifically tailored to specific sectors which include tourism and hospitality, health and care and childcare. The scheme also provides training, guidance and support to Employers, to ensure an understanding of planning and increasing the Welsh language skills of the workforce. When the Code establishing a standard method for describing ability in Welsh based on the levels of common reference in the Common European Framework of Reference [CEFR} has been introduced, the Cymraeg Gwaith provision will be expected to be compatible with the Code making it easier for employees and employers to recognise employees' skill levels in Welsh.

Conclusion 7

The Committee also wishes to see far more emphasis placed on supporting grass-roots clubs to use more Welsh and create a stronger Welsh language ethos. Working with governing bodies, the Welsh Government should provide support where needed to enable the sharing of good practice. The focus of the governing bodies should also be:

This conclusion clearly states that it is the responsibility of the governing bodies to implement these recommendations. While the Welsh Government expects the governing bodies to take the lead on strengthening the use of the Welsh language and developing a stronger Welsh ethos in grassroots clubs, the Government's role is to provide support where needed, particularly by sharing good practice and working in partnership with the relevant bodies.

Conclusion 8

There is clearly good intention to develop a stronger evidence base in relation to Welsh language use in Wales, and the Welsh Government has sought, through its Research and Evaluation Framework, to provide some guidance. However, a far more systematic and coordinated approach to research needs is required to inform Welsh language policy design and delivery. That leadership ought to come from the Welsh Government

In January 2026, we published **Areas of Research Interest: Cymraeg 2050**. We want to work with the research community to build a robust evidence base for Cymraeg 2050, and this document outlines the research questions that we believe will help drive the Cymraeg 2050 agenda forward. Covering areas such as early years, education and training, health and social care, the economy and community regeneration, its purpose is to support the exchange of knowledge, stimulate new research that aligns with the Cymraeg 2050 priorities, and encourage greater investment in research relating to the Welsh language.

The last **Welsh language use survey** was conducted in 2019-20. The survey ended earlier than planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently looking at options for conducting another language use survey in the future. During periods between language use surveys, we included questions about the use of the Welsh language in the National Survey for Wales. For example, the 2026-27 survey will include questions about the use of Welsh in the workplace.

To complement national-level data from the Welsh language use survey, the BRO Project is a three-year sociolinguistic study launched in 2023 that examines Welsh language use and linguistic change at a detailed, community level, using mixed research methods. The project is led by researchers from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, the University of the Highlands and Islands, and Jesus College, Oxford, and is supported by grant funding from the Welsh Government. Its first output—a collection that analyses census data at local authority level and lower tier statistical area (LSOA)—was published as part of the Welsh Communities Commission's first phase report. The research team has carried out community surveys and ethnographic observation in Welsh-speaking communities, and early findings are already being shared. The aim of the project is to produce practical policy recommendations and tools to support these communities.

Conclusion 9

There is a specific need to measure the effectiveness of workplace and sports-based interventions on Welsh language use, including longitudinal studies to track behaviour change over time. This should align with the introduction of the CEFR and wider changes brought about by the Act.

The Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025 requires the Welsh language strategy to include targets for increasing the use of the Welsh language, including workplace and social use. Welsh Ministers will provide clear guidance to the workplace sector on the steps they will need to take to meet those targets.

The Act also establishes a standard method for describing ability in Welsh based on the common reference levels in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages [CEFR] through the publication of a Code. The Code will facilitate the ability of employers to develop their understanding of the Welsh proficiency levels of their employees and job applicants which in turn will provide clarity about their ability to use Welsh in the workplace.

Within the 12 month period following the publication of the Code, Welsh Ministers must review the Welsh language standards relating to improving or assessing the Welsh language skills of the workforce in relation to the Welsh

language and the promotion standards. That could lead to a reform of the standards and if it did, it could give sectors such as workplaces further clarity on how these common reference levels could take root in their work and allow capacity to be measured to use Welsh. The review could also lead to a reform of standards that would facilitate the achievement of targets set out in the Welsh language strategy.

There will be freedom for anybody to take advantage of the standard method to be introduced in the Code to describe ability in Welsh. Increasing use of it in a variety of lifelong contexts – from schools to workplaces – could improve our understanding of the behaviour-inducing threshold where an individual is more likely to use Welsh on a daily basis, at work and socially, which in turn facilitates the planning of interventions to achieve the targets of the Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

We will keep assessing how well our interventions are working in sports and workplaces by collaborating with partners like Sport Wales and the Welsh Language Commissioner. Our aim is to help sports organisations expand their Welsh language provision, while gradually improving monitoring procedures. Over time, these efforts will align with the introduction of the CEFR and broader changes resulting from the Act.

Conclusion 10

The Committee believes that that the Welsh Government should routinely consider the role of the diaspora in its language strategy and ensures that policies reflect the reality that "our linguistic community does extend beyond the borders of Wales." Engagement should be proportionate and focused on strengthening cultural identity and language use through technology.

We continue to ensure that the Welsh language has a prominent place at an international level. Language-driven collaboration forms the foundation of our partnerships with countries and regions like Ireland, the Basque Country, Catalonia, Flanders, New Zealand, Canada, and Brittany. We are also members of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity, which shares best practice in language policy across Europe.

In collaboration with the Catalan Government, we are developing the AINA project through an ad-hoc Digital Areas and Equality group, as part of UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages. The aim of the project is to improve bilingual technology for the benefit of multilingual communities around the world.