



# **Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report 2017/18**

**Prepared in accordance with the requirements of  
The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

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## 1. Introduction

This report is the third Welsh Annual Report produced under the requirements of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and covers the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2108. The table below details the requirements for this report:

Areas	Relevant Standard and/or sub-section
<p><b>Complaints</b> The annual report must include the number of complaints you received during the year which related to your compliance with the standards with which you were under a duty to comply.</p>	147,148, 156, 158(2), 162, 164(2), 168(a), 170 (2), (d)
<p><b>Welsh Language Skills</b> The annual report must include the following information (where relevant, to the extent you are under a duty to comply with the standards are referred to) (a) The number of employees who have Welsh language skills at the end of the year in question (on the basis of the records you kept in accordance standard 151)</p>	170(2)(a) 151
<p><b>Welsh Language Training</b> The annual report must include the following information (where relevant, to the extent you are under a duty to comply with the standards referred to)- (a) The number of members of staff who attended training courses by you in Welsh during the year (in accordance with Standard 128) (b) If a Welsh version of a course was offered by you in accordance with standard128, the percentage of the total number of staff attending the course who attended that version.</p>	152, 170 (2) (b)
<p><b>Recruitment</b> The annual report must include the following information (where relevant, to the extent you are under a duty to comply with the standards referred to) (ch) the number of new and vacant posts that you advertised during the year which were categorise as posts where (i) Welsh language skills were essential. (ii) Welsh language skills needed to be learnt when appointed to the post, (iii) Welsh language skills were desirable, or (iv) Welsh language skills were not necessary, ( on the basis of the records you kept in accordance with standard 154)</p>	170 (2)(ch) 154

## **2. Complaints**

The Corporate Complaints procedure logs all complaints related to the Welsh Language and the Welsh Language Standards. Complaints can be made in any format (e.g. email, letter, in person, telephone, social media etc.). No complaints were received via the Corporate Complaints system during the reporting period.

However, during the reporting period, three complaints were received by the

## **CSG119 Swimming Lessons Investigation into Welsh Language Standards 81, 84 and 86**

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council was subject to an investigation by the Welsh Language Commissioner into the provision of swimming lessons through the medium of Welsh. This investigation spans two reporting periods, namely, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

On 03/06/2016, the Welsh Language Commissioner received a number of complaints from a member of the public. The complaints involved the swimming lesson provision of a number of local authorities, including Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. Evidence was provided to support the investigation into the complaints; this evidence involved the response of the local authorities to queries regarding the availability of Welsh language swimming lessons.

In the case of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, the Commissioner received a copy of the Council's response to a written query regarding Welsh language swimming lessons. The query was made via email by a member of the public in May 2016. The response stated that the Council did not offer any swimming lessons in Welsh.

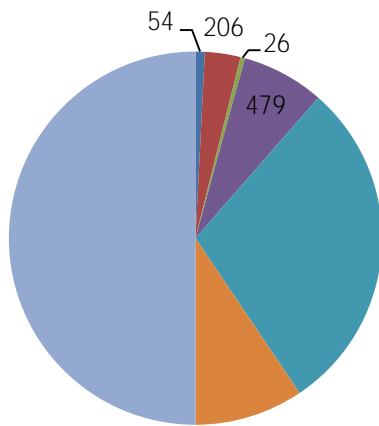
The complainant was acting on behalf of other persons, who had made the queries to the councils, but the information submitted did not make it known who these persons were. Consequently, the Welsh Language Commissioner was not satisfied that the complainant was acting on behalf of persons who have been directly affected by the alleged conduct. On that basis, the Welsh Language Commissioner was not of the opinion that the complaints were valid according to section 93 of the Welsh Language Measure.

However, the Welsh Language Commissioner was of the opinion that the information



The Council received a Determination Letter from the Welsh Language  
41 on 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Chart 2: Speak Welsh**



Speak Welsh	Total
Fluently	54
Moderately	206
Quite Well	26
A Little	479
No Ability	1949
No Response Made	630
Grand Total	3344

**Chart 3: Write Welsh**

**Chart 4: Read Welsh**





## **Employee Training Courses**

Standard 170 requires:

The number of members of staff who attended training courses you offered in Welsh during the year;

## The Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

Standard 145 requires Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to produce a strategy detailing how it will promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language over the next five years<sup>1</sup>.

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In order to meet a target of 44% increase of Welsh speakers by 2050, we would need to gain an additional 2,324 Welsh speakers against the 2011 Census Blaenau Gwent baseline of 5,284. Therefore, this represents an average annual increase of 70 additional Welsh speakers, i.e. 3% of the target figure of an additional 2,324 in Blaenau Gwent for the next 33 years.

The Council has identified the following three Welsh Language Promotion objectives:

- i. Promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language within the families and the community;
- ii. Increase the provision of Welsh language education and informal activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language;
- iii. Increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace.

[http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/aksblaenau\\_gwent/images/att6176.pdf](http://democracy.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/aksblaenau_gwent/images/att6176.pdf)

Below are some of the key pieces of work being taken forward to promote the Welsh Language within the Council and communities of Blaenau Gwent:

**Objective one** of the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy states that: will promote and encourage the use of Welsh language within families and the

Examples of actions that took place during the reporting period 2017/18 in order to support this aim include the promoting of Welsh Language events by Menter Iaith, Coleg Gwent and Cymdeithas Gym

with Welsh speakers in the area.







