

## **National Assembly for Wales**

### **Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales**

#### **Second Assembly: 2003 - 2007**

This paper provides an outline of the key dates for the National Assembly for Wales during the Second Assembly.

It focuses on administrative and procedural events but also refers to some other political or policy developments.

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Service



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## **National Assembly for Wales**

Key Events in the Development of  
the National Assembly for Wales

Second Assembly: 2003 - 2007



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# Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

## 2003



## May

### **1 May**

Assembly Elections take place.

#### **(Election results)**

### **7 May**

First Plenary meeting of Second Assembly.

- Lord Elis-Thomas elected as Presiding Officer
- Dr John Marek AM elected as Deputy Presiding Officer
- Rhodri Morgan AM re-elected as First Minister

#### **(Record of Proceedings for 7 May 2003)**

### **8 May**

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM resigns as President of Plaid Cymru.

### **9 May**

First Minister announces his new Cabinet for the second term of the Welsh Assembly Government:

- Minister for Finance - Sue Essex AM (Labour)
- Minister for Assembly Business - Karen Sinclair AM (Labour)
- Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration - Edwina Hart AM (Labour)
- Minister for Health and Social Care - Jane Hutt AM (Labour)
- Minister for Economic Development - Andrew Davies AM (Labour)
- Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning - Jane Davidson AM (Labour)
- Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside - Carwyn Jones AM (Labour)
- Minister for Culture, Sports and Welsh Language - Alun Pugh AM (Labour)

**13 May**

The first Plenary meeting is held on a Tuesday under the new order whereby Plenary sessions are held on a Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon.

First Minister appoints Deputy Ministers:

- Economic Development and Transport – Brian Gibbons AM (Labour)
- Health and Social Care – John Griffiths AM (Labour)
- Social Justice – Huw Lewis AM (Labour)

Members elected to House Committee and Business Committee.

**(Record of Proceedings for 13 May 2003)**

**20 May**

Election of the Panel of Chairs from which the chairs of the Subject Committees are to be selected:

- Rosemary Butler AM (Labour)
- Janice Gregory AM (Labour)
- Christine Gwyther AM (Labour)
- Ann Jones AM (Labour)
- Alun Ffred Jones AM (Plaid Cymru)
- David Melding AM (Conservative)

Peter Black AM (Liberal Democrat)

## June

### 3 June

Chairs and Members of Subject Committees are elected in Plenary:

- Alun Ffred Jones AM (Plaid Cymru), Environment Planning and Countryside
- Peter Black AM (Liberal Democrat), Education and Lifelong Learning
- Rosemary Butler AM (Labour), Culture, Welsh Language and Sport
- Ann Jones AM (Labour), Local Government and Public Services
- Janice Gregory AM (Labour), Social Justice and Regeneration
- David Melding AM (Conservative), Health and Social Services
- Christine Gwyther AM (Labour), Economic Development and Transport
- Janet Davies AM (Plaid Cymru), Audit Committee
- Gwenda Thomas AM (Labour), Equality of Opportunity
- Glyn Davies AM (Conservative), Legislation Committee
- Kirsty Williams AM (Liberal Democrat), Standards Committee
- Sandy Mewies AM (Labour), European and External Affairs

**(Record of Proceedings for 3 June 2003)**

### 5 June

HM The Queen officially opens the second term of the Assembly, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Charles.

**(Record of Proceedings for 5 June 2003)**

### 12 June

The Assembly at the Pierhead welcomes its 100,000th visitor since the opening of the centre to the public in May 2001.

## July

### 1 July

Motion *NDM1518 the National Assembly for Wales agrees to enter into a lump-sum contract for the new Assembly Chamber building with Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd at a cost of £40,997,000.00 (exclusive of VAT)* is passed, following a debate in Plenary.

The National Assembly establishes the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee under Standing Order No. 8.1 to advise the Assembly on the terms of the draft Public Audit (Wales) Bill.

**(Record of Proceedings for 1 July 2003)**

## July

### 2 July

The National Assembly, acting under Standing Order No. 8.1, elects the following Members to the Public Audit (Wales) Committee:

- Leighton Andrews AM (Labour)
- Ann Jones AM (Labour)
- Alun Cairns AM (Conservative)
- Mick Bates AM (Liberal Democrat)
- Janet Davies AM (Plaid Cymru) (Chair)

### **(Record of Proceedings for 2 July 2003)**

### 8 July

First meeting of the Public Audit (Wales) Committee.

### 9 July

The Rt Hon Helen Clark MP Prime Minister of New Zealand addresses the Assembly.

### **(Record of Proceedings for 9 July 2003)**

### 15 July

Committee on Seating Arrangements in the Chamber established under Standing Order 8.1

Members of Committee elected on the 16 July:

- Karen Sinclair AM (Labour)
- Lynne Neagle AM (Labour)
- Leighton Andrews AM (Labour),
- Carl Sargeant AM (Labour)
- Janet Davies AM (Plaid Cymru)
- Jonathan Morgan AM (Conservative)
- Kirsty Williams AM (Liberal Democrat)
- Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM (Plaid Cymru) (Chair)

The Assembly approves changes to Standing Order No 35, providing for the membership of Planning Decision Committees to reflect the new Party balance in the Assembly.

### **(Record of Proceedings for 15 July 2003)**

## August

### August

Work commences on the site of the new Assembly building.

## September

### 10 September

Announcement of the Appointment of a single individual (Adam Peat) to the three separate offices of Commissioner for Local Administration in Wales, Health Service Commissioner for Wales and Welsh Administration Ombudsman.

### 15 September

Ieuan Wyn Jones AM is elected as leader of the Plaid Cymru group within the Assembly.

## October

### 2 October

First meeting of the Committee on Seating Arrangements in the Chamber.

### 21 October

Publication of the Report of the Committee on Seating Arrangements in the Chamber.

## November

### November

Publication of the report of the Electoral Commission ***The National Assembly for Wales elections 2003: the official report and results.***

### 4 November

Implementation of the Report of the Committee on Seating Arrangements.

### 19 November

Minister-President Teufel of the Baden-Württemberg region of Germany addresses the Assembly.

The Assembly approves changes to Standing Order No 14 to permit substitutions for the Equality of Opportunity Committee; No 15, to permit substitutions for the European and External Affairs Committee; No 19, to allow for more than one local government finance report in any year, and to clarify the arrangements for laying documents.

**(Record of Proceedings for 19 November 2003)**

### 28 November

British-Irish Council meets in Wales at the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans.

## December

### **3 December**

Annual debate on the Queen's Speech.

**(Record of Proceedings for 3 December 2003)**

### **5 December**

First Minister and Presiding Officer visit Penrhyn Quarry in Bethesda to cut first Welsh slate for use on the new Assembly building.

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# Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

## 2004



## January

### 13 January

The Assembly votes to establish the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee 2004, under Standing Order No. 8.1, to consider aspects of the Public Audit (Wales) Bill, including the Finance Minister's letter of 1 December to the Chair of the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee and, elects the following members to the Public Audit (Wales). Committee 2004:

- Leighton Andrews AM (Labour)
- Janice Gregory AM (Labour)
- Alun Cairns AM (Conservative)
- Jenny Randerson AM (Liberal Democrat)
- Janet Davies AM (Plaid Cymru) (Chair)

**(Record of Proceedings for 13 January 2004)**

### 22 January

First meeting of the Public Audit (Wales) Bill Committee 2004.

## February

### 2 February

National Assembly for Wales' new North Wales exhibition centre in Colwyn Bay opens to the public.

## March

### 24 March

Changes to Standing Orders passed reflecting the change of name of the Presiding Office to Assembly Parliamentary Service.

**(Record of Proceedings for 24 March 2004)**

### 31 March

The Richard Commission's **report** into the powers and electoral arrangements of the National Assembly is published.

Assembly approves changes to Standing Orders in order to consolidate all orders amended during the first Assembly, and eliminate any inconsistencies and idiosyncrasies within.

**(Record of Proceedings for 31 March 2004)**

## April

### 26 April

Change to Standing Orders passed on 24 March 2004 come into effect, meaning The Presiding Office is renamed as the Assembly Parliamentary Service.

## May

### 13 May

Her Excellency President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia visits the National Assembly.

### 27 May

*Draft Transport (Wales) Bill* published.

## June

### 8 June

The Assembly votes to establish a committee in accordance with Standing Order No. 8.1 to advise the Assembly on the banning of smoking in public places and elects the following Members to the Committee on Smoking in Public Places:

- David Lloyd AM (Plaid Cymru)
- Jeff Cuthbert AM (Labour)
- Jonathan Morgan AM (Conservative)
- Peter Black AM (Liberal Democrat),
- Val Lloyd AM (Labour) (Chair)

**(Record of Proceedings for 8 June 2004)**

### 15 June

Assembly approves changes to Standing Orders, as set out in the report of the Business Committee. New Standing Order 9.15 will allow members of the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee to participate in meetings of the Assembly's subject committees.

**(Record of Proceedings for 15 June 2004)**

### 21 June

The first formal joint meeting of an Assembly subject committee and the Welsh Affairs Committee. The Economic Development and Transport Committee and the Welsh Affairs Committee discuss the Draft Transport (Wales) Bill.

**(Link to agenda)**

**(Link to transcript)**

## July

### 15 July

First meeting of the Committee on Smoking in Public Places.

**(Link to agenda)**

## September

### 28 September

The Assembly approves that House Committee will assume responsibility for the new Chamber building upon its completion.

**(Record of Proceedings for 28 September 2004)**

## October

### 6 October

Following a debate in Plenary on the Report of the Richard Commission, a motion is passed that the Assembly, *'having considered the report of the Richard commission, calls on the First Minister to urge the Secretary of State for Wales to bring forward proposals to amend the Government of Wales Act 1998 for the following purposes:*

- a) to effect a formal separation between the executive and legislative branches of the Assembly;*
- b) to reform existing electoral arrangements in order to eliminate anomalies;*
- c) to enhance the legislative powers of the Assembly.'*

**(Record of Proceedings for 6 October 2004)**

## November

### 23 November

Two Wales-only bills are announced in the Queen's speech during the state opening of Parliament at Westminster; The Transport (Wales) Bill and The Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

**(Link to Hansard)**

## December

### 1 December

The Secretary of State for Wales makes a Statement on the Queen's Speech, followed by the Annual debate in Plenary.

**(Record of Proceedings for 1 December 2004)**



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# Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

## 2005



## January

### 10 January

Dr Brian Gibbons AM is appointed as Minister for Health and Social Services. Jane Hutt AM is appointed to the role of Business Manager. Karen Sinclair AM will continue in her role as Chief Whip and attending Cabinet.

### 14 January

The First Minister announces the appointment of two new deputy ministers. Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey AM (Labour) is appointed the Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Transport, and Christine Chapman AM (Labour) becomes the deputy minister for Education & Lifelong Learning and Finance, Local Government & Public Services. Jeff Cuthbert AM (Labour) is appointed chair of the Objective One Monitoring Committee.

## February

### 22 February

Assembly approves changes to Standing Orders as set out in the Report of the Business Committee of 14 February.

- Standing Order 18A is amended to establish a Committee to scrutinise the First Minister.
- Standing Order 10 is amended to change the boundaries of the Regional Committees to be coterminous with the Assembly's electoral regions, meaning the creation of five Regional Committees: North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales West, South Wales Central and South Wales East. SO 6.6 relating to the remittance of bills to Committees, SO 6.12 relating to the order of business, SO 6.14 relating to the Guidance on Motion and Amendments and SO 31 relating to subordinate legislation are also amended.

**(Record of Proceedings for 22 February 2005)**

## March

### 9 March

Assembly approves changes to Standing Order 3.2, relating to offices for which an Assembly Member may receive an additional salary.

**(Record of Proceedings for 9 March 2009)**

## April

### 18 April

Peter Law AM informs the Presiding Officer that he is no longer a member of the Labour Party. He therefore sits as an independent Member of the Assembly.

### 27 April

The Assembly elects Members to Regional Committees.

**(Record of Proceedings for 27 April 2005)**

## May

### 5 May

The Labour Party wins the UK General Election with a majority of 67 seats. Two sitting Assembly Members are returned to Westminster seats, Peter Law AM as the Independent MP for Blaenau Gwent and David Davies AM as the Conservative MP for Monmouth.

### 17 May

Legislation to reform the National Assembly for Wales is announced in the Queen's speech. The full details of the Government of Wales (Amendment) Bill are to be published in a forthcoming White Paper.

Three other items of Wales-specific legislation were announced:

- The Transport (Wales) Bill
- The Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill
- The Draft Tourism Accommodation Registration (Wales) Bill.

**(Link to Hansard)**

Laura Anne Jones AM is elected to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, Brynle Williams AM to the Local Government and Public Services Committee and William Graham AM to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

**(Record of Proceedings for 17 May 2005)**

## June

### 7 June

Mick Bates AM is elected to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee, Kirsty Williams AM is elected to the Economic Development and Transport Committee, Jenny Randerson AM is elected to the Health and Social Services Committee and Jeff Cuthbert AM to the Legislation Committee

**(Record of Proceedings for 7 June 2005)**

### 14 June

The Assembly votes to establish a Committee to advise the Assembly on school funding

**(Record of Proceedings for 14 June 2005)**

### 15 June

The White Paper on the reform of the Assembly, '**Better Governance for Wales**' is published, following a statement by The Secretary of State for Wales in Parliament.

**(Link to Hansard).**

The First Minister makes a statement on the white paper in Plenary.

**(Record of Proceedings for 15 June 2005)**

### 21 June

The Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, Secretary of State for Wales makes a Statement on the Queen's Speech, followed by a debate in Plenary

**(Record of Proceedings for 21 June 2005)**

### 28 June

The Assembly votes to establish a Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper and elects the following Members to the committee:

- Lord Elis Thomas (Presiding Officer)
- Jane Hutt AM (Labour)
- Lorraine Barrett AM (Labour)
- Carl Sargeant AM (Labour)
- Jocelyn Davies AM (Plaid Cymru)
- David Melding AM (Conservative)
- Kirsty Williams AM (Liberal Democrat)

**(Record of Proceedings for 28 June 2005)**

Following Plenary, The Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper meets for the first time to receive evidence

**(Link to Committee Proceedings)**

## July

### 4 July

The Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper meets to receive evidence

[\(Link to Committee Proceedings\)](#)

### 5 July

The Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper meets to receive evidence

[\(Link to Committee Proceedings\)](#)

### 6 July

The Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper meets to receive evidence [\(Link to Committee Proceedings\)](#)

The Assembly elects the following Members to the Committee on School Funding:

- Denise Idris Jones (Labour)
- Lynne Neagle (Labour)
- Janet Ryder (Plaid Cymru)
- William Graham (Conservative)
- Peter Black (Liberal Democrat)

[\(Record of Proceedings for 6 July 2005\)](#)

### 7 July

The Committee on the *Better Governance for Wales* White Paper meet to take evidence.

[\(Link to committee proceedings\)](#)

## October

### 25 October

The Welsh Affairs Committee meet as part of their inquiry into the Better Governance for Wales White Paper

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#)

### 31 October

The Welsh Affairs Committee meet as part of their inquiry into the Better Governance for Wales White Paper

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#)

## November

### 10 November

The Welsh Affairs Committee meet as part of their inquiry into the Better Governance for Wales White Paper

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#)

## December

### **8 December**

Publication of the new **Government of Wales Bill**, and first reading in the Commons ([Link to Hansard](#))

### **13 December**

The Welsh Affairs Committee's First Report on The Government White Paper: Better Governance for Wales is published (First Report, 2005-06, HC 551)

([Link to report](#))



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# Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

## 2006



15:27

## January

### 9 January

The Government of Wales Bill receives second reading in the House of Commons ([Link to Hansard](#))

### 17 January

The *Government of Wales Bill* debated in Plenary  
([Record of Proceedings for 17 January 2010](#))

### 18 January

The Assembly votes to establish a Committee on the Government of Wales Bill and elects the following Members to the Committee:

- Lord Elis Thomas (Presiding Officer) (Chair)
- Jane Hutt (Labour)
- Leighton Andrews (Labour)
- Ann Jones (Labour)
- Val Lloyd (Labour)
- Gwenda Thomas (Labour)
- Ieuan Wyn Jones (Plaid Cymru)
- Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru)
- Nick Bourne (Conservative)
- David Melding (Conservative)
- Michael German (Liberal Democrat)

([Record of Proceedings for 18 January 2006](#))

### 23 January

*Government of Wales Bill* Commons Committee Stage– 1st day.  
([Link to Hansard](#))

- Eleanor Burnham (Liberal Democrat)
- John Marek (Forward Wales)

([Record of Proceedings for 24 January 2006](#))

## January

### 24 January

Government of Wales Bill Commons Committee Stage— 2nd day.  
([Link to Hansard](#))

The Assembly elects the following Members to the Committee on Rail Infrastructure and Improved Passenger Services:

- Leighton Andrews (Labour)
- Rosemary Butler (Labour)
- Carl Sargeant (Labour)
- Janet Davies (Plaid Cymru)
- Lisa Francis (Conservative)

### 30 January

*Government of Wales Bill* Commons Committee Stage— 3rd day.  
([Link to Hansard](#))

## February

### 7 February

The first Plenary session is held in the Siambr at the Senedd, the new Assembly building

### 27 February

*Government of Wales Bill* Commons Remaining Stages  
([Link to Hansard](#))

### 28 February

Government of Wales Bill Commons Remaining Stages  
([Link to Hansard](#))

## March

### 1 March

Royal opening of the Senedd, the new National Assembly for Wales Building in Cardiff Bay, attended by HM The Queen, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall  
([Record of Proceedings for 1 March 2006](#))

Government of Wales Bill Lords First Reading  
([Link to Hansard](#))

## March

### 14 March

**The Report of the Assembly Committee on the *Government of Wales Bill*** is laid before the Assembly.

### 22 March

Government of Wales Bill Lords Second Reading  
([Link to Hansard](#))

Debate in Plenary on the Report of the Assembly Committee on the Government of Wales Bill  
([Record of Proceedings for 22 March 2006](#))

## April

### 1 April

Following the merger of the Wales Tourist Board, Welsh Development Agency, ACCAC and ELWa with the Welsh Assembly Government, two Assembly Committees are renamed to reflect the changes. The Economic Development and Transport Committee becomes the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee, and the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is renamed the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee. There are no changes to Committee responsibilities.

### 19 April

Government of Wales Bill Lords Committee Stage 1st day  
([Link to Hansard](#))

### 25 April

The Senedd welcomes its' 100,000th visitor since it opened in February.

## May

### 2 May

Tributes are paid in Plenary to the late Peter Law AM MP, the Assembly Member and Member of Parliament for Blaenau Gwent  
([Record of Proceedings for 2 May 2006](#))

### 3 May

*Government of Wales Bill* Lords Committee Stage 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
([Link to Hansard](#))

## May

### 17 May

The Assembly votes to establish a committee, known as the Shadow Commission, in order to plan for matters within the responsibility of the future Assembly Commission as set out in clause 27 of the Government of Wales Bill. Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Presiding Officer), Lorraine Barrett (Labour), Elin Jones (Plaid Cymru), William Graham (Conservative), Peter Black (Liberal Democrat) were elected as members of the Shadow Commission with the Presiding Officer elected as Chair.

The Assembly also votes to establish an Advisory Committee to recommend Standing Orders for the Assembly constituted under the Government of Wales Bill. Jane Hutt (Labour), Ann Jones (Labour), Val Lloyd (Labour), Gwenda Thomas (Labour), Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru), Lisa Francis (Conservative), Jenny Randerson (Liberal Democrat) were elected as members of the Committee on Standing Orders with Jenny Randerson elected as Chair of the committee

**(Record of Proceedings for 17 May 2006)**

## June

### 6 June

*Government of Wales Bill* Lords Committee Stage 3rd day  
**(Link to Hansard).**

### 12 June

The Standing Committee of CALRE, the Conference of Presidents of European Regional Legislative Assemblies met in the Senedd to discuss matters of common interest concerning regional assemblies their interaction with each other, and their relationship with European institutions.

### 27 June

*Government of Wales Bill* Lords Report Stage 1<sup>st</sup> day  
**(Link to Hansard).**

### 28 June

*Government of Wales Bill* Lords Report Stage 2nd day  
**(Link to Hansard).**

### 29 June

Trish Law (Independent) is elected as the new Assembly Member for Blaenau Gwent.

## July

### 4 July

Trish Law AM attends her first Plenary session following the Blaenau Gwent by-election.

### 13 July

*Government of Wales Bill* Lords 3rd reading

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#)

### 18 July

*Government of Wales Bill* Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#).

### 24 July

*Government of Wales Bill* Commons amendments and reasons considered in the Lords

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#)

### 25 July

The *Government of Wales Bill* receives Royal Assent

[\(Link to Hansard\)](#).

The ***Government of Wales Act 2006*** is published.

## November

### 15 November

Claire Clancy is appointed as the new Chief Executive and Clerk of the Assembly.

[\(Record of Proceedings for 15 November 2006\)](#)

### 28 November

The Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, Secretary of State for Wales makes a Statement on the Queen's Speech, followed by a debate in Plenary

[\(Record of Proceedings for 28 November 2006\)](#).



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# Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

## 2007



AGORWYD GAN EI MAWRHYD ... ENHINES  
OPENED BY HER MAJESTY THE ... 13-2006

## January

### 31 January

New Standing Orders of the National Assembly for Wales published

## February

### 7 February

New Standing Orders approved in Plenary

**(Record of Proceedings for 7 February 2007)**

### 12 February

The new Chief Executive and Clerk of the National Assembly for Wales, Claire Clancy begins in post.

## May

### 03 May

Assembly elections take place.

**(Election results)**