

National Assembly for Wales

Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

Third Assembly: 2007 - 2011

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.

Research
Service



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Third Assembly: 2007 - 2011



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Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

2007



May

3 May

Assembly elections take place.

(Election results)

9 May

First plenary meeting of Third Assembly held.

- Lord Elis-Thomas elected as Presiding Officer
- Rosemary Butler AM elected as Deputy Presiding Officer

(Link to Record of Proceedings)

25 May

Rhodri Morgan AM is elected First Minister

(Link to Record of Proceedings)

31 May

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

- Minister for Health and Social Services: Edwina Hart AM
- Minister for Education, Culture and the Welsh Language: Carwyn Jones AM
- Minister for the Economy and Transport: Dr Brian Gibbons AM
- Minister for Sustainability and Rural Development: Jane Davidson AM
- Minister for Social Justice and Public Service Delivery: Andrew Davies AM
- Minister for Budget and Business: Jane Hutt AM

In addition to the six Cabinet posts above, the First Minister appoints Carl Sargeant AM as Chief Whip and Deputy Business Minister.

(Link to Welsh Assembly Government press release)

First Minister appoints Deputy Ministers:

- Economy and Transport (with special responsibility for regeneration): Huw Lewis AM
- Health and Social Services (with special responsibility for Social Services): Gwenda Thomas AM
- Social Justice and Public Service Delivery (with special responsibility for housing): Leighton Andrews AM
- Education, Culture and Welsh Language (with special responsibility for skills): John Griffiths AM

(Link to Welsh Assembly Government press release)

June

5 June

HM The Queen officially opens the third term of the Assembly, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall
[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

6 June

National Assembly for Wales Commissioners elected:

- Lorraine Barrett AM (Labour)
- Peter Black AM (Liberal Democrats)
- William Graham AM (Conservatives)
- Elin Jones AM (Plaid Cymru)

The Commission is chaired by the Presiding Officer, Lord Elis-Thomas AM
[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

12 June

First Legislative Competence Order (relating to Education and Training (Additional Learning Needs)) is introduced.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

26 June

New Assembly Committees elected and membership announced

[\(Link to National Assembly for Wales press release\)](#)

27 June

The Labour – Plaid Cymru *One Wales* agreement is announced.

July

2 July

First Assembly Measure introduced – The **Proposed NHS Redress Measure** is introduced by the Welsh Government

11 July

New Assembly Committee Chairs announced

[\(Assembly news release\)](#)

Ieuan Wyn Jones is announced as Deputy First Minister

[\(Welsh Government news release\)](#)

The Assembly Commission launches its new Welsh language scheme

[\(Assembly news release\)](#)

19 July

The One Wales coalition Cabinet is unveiled:

- First Minister: Rhodri Morgan AM
- Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport: Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
- Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery: Andrew Davies AM
- Minister for Social Justice and Local Government: Brian Gibbons AM
- Minister for Education, Children and Young People: Jane Hutt AM
- Minister for Rural Affairs: Elin Jones AM
- Minister for Health and Social Services: Edwina Hart AM
- Minister for Sustainability and Housing: Jane Davidson AM
- Minister for Heritage: Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
- Counsel General and Leader of the House, with responsibility for Assembly Business and Communication: Carwyn Jones AM
- Deputy Minister for Social Services: Gwenda Thomas AM
- Deputy Minister for Housing: Jocelyn Davies AM
- Deputy Minister for Skills: John Griffiths AM
- Deputy Minister for Regeneration: Leighton Andrews AM

[\(Link to Welsh Government Press Release\)](#)

September

11 September

The Presiding Officer, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM meets counterparts from the Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly in the first such formal meeting since 2002

[\(Link to national Assembly for Wales press release\)](#)

18 September

Chris Franks AM (Plaid Cymru) is appointed to the Assembly Commission, following Elin Jones AM's appointment as Minister for Rural Affairs.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

Carwyn Jones AM is appointed Counsel General in Plenary

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

Appointments to Assembly Committees resulting from appointments to the Welsh Government Cabinet are also made in Plenary.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

The Assembly marks the 10th Anniversary of the 1997 devolution referendum

[\(National Assembly for Wales press release\)](#)

20 September

The first scrutiny session of a Welsh Government proposed Legislative Competence Order takes place. The Proposed Additional Learning Needs Order is scrutinised by a Committee of Assembly Members.

- [\(Link to Committee meeting transcript\)](#)
- [\(Link to National Assembly for Wales press release\)](#)

October

16 October

The Assembly agrees a motion to establish a Children and Young People Committee and elects Lynne Neagle AM, Christine Chapman AM, Helen Mary Jones AM, Angela Burns AM and Eleanor Burnham AM to the Committee.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

17 October

The National Assembly's Enterprise and Learning Committee hold the Assembly's first ever cross-cutting scrutiny session. Three Welsh Government Ministers are scheduled to be scrutinised on issues within the Committee's remit.

- [\(Link to Committee meeting transcript\)](#)
- [\(Link to National Assembly for Wales press release\)](#)

24 October

The Senedd welcomes its 500,000th visitor since it opened in February 2006.

November

7 November

The Assembly agrees a motion to establish a North Wales Regional Committee.

([Link to Record of Proceedings](#))

15 November

Helen Mary Jones AM is elected as the Chair of the Assembly's Children and Young People Committee.

([Committee Transcript](#))



Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

2008



January

17 January

First joint meeting held between an Assembly Committee and the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee to scrutinise the Welsh Government's proposed Legislative Competence Order on Domiciliary Care.

[\(Link to Committee meeting transcript\)](#)

29 January

The proposed NHS Redress (Wales) Measure becomes the first Assembly Measure to complete the first stage of its process, following the Assembly's agreement of the general principles of the proposed Measure in Plenary.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

The Vice President of the European Union, Margot Wallström, visits the Assembly and addresses a committee of the whole Assembly in the Siambur.

[\(Link to Committee meeting proceedings\)](#)

February

5 February

The first Assembly Legislative Competence Order, *The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education and Training) Order*, relating to additional learning needs, is approved by the Assembly.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

18 February

The first Assembly Member-proposed legislative competence order, relating to mental health services, is introduced by Jonathan Morgan AM.

March

14 March

The first Assembly Member-proposed Measure, relating to healthy eating in schools, is introduced by Jenny Randerson AM.

April

9 April

The first **Legislative Competence Order transferring law-making powers in the area of Special Educational Needs provision** to Wales receives Royal approval from the Queen in Privy Council.

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

15 April

The Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, The Honourable Richard Torbay, visits the Assembly.

17 April

Siambr Hywel, the Assembly's interactive learning centre which includes Europe's first dedicated youth debating chamber, opens in the former Assembly debating Chamber in Ty Hywel.

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

May

6 May

The first Assembly Measure is passed by the Assembly in Plenary. The ***NHS Redress (Wales) Measure 2008*** becomes the first ever piece of primary legislation to be passed by the Assembly.

(Link to Record of Proceedings)

June

26 June

HRH The Prince of Wales visits the Assembly to officially open Siambr Hywel.

July

9 July

The first Assembly Measure, The ***NHS Redress (Wales) Measure 2008*** becomes law in Wales following approval in Privy Council by Her Majesty the Queen.

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

18 July

The National Assembly for Wales publishes its inaugural annual report

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

22 July

Alun Ffred Jones AM is appointed Minister for Heritage, with responsibility for culture, the Welsh language and sport.

October

13 October

The full results of the National Assembly for Wales' **Public Attitudes survey 2008**, which was carried out by Aberystwyth University's Institute of Welsh Politics and GfKNOP, are published.

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

15 October

The President of Estonia, Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves, addresses the Assembly.

(Link to Record of Proceedings)

November

13 November

His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho visits the National Assembly for Wales.

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

24 November

The National Assembly for Wales launches its equality scheme.

(National Assembly for Wales press release)

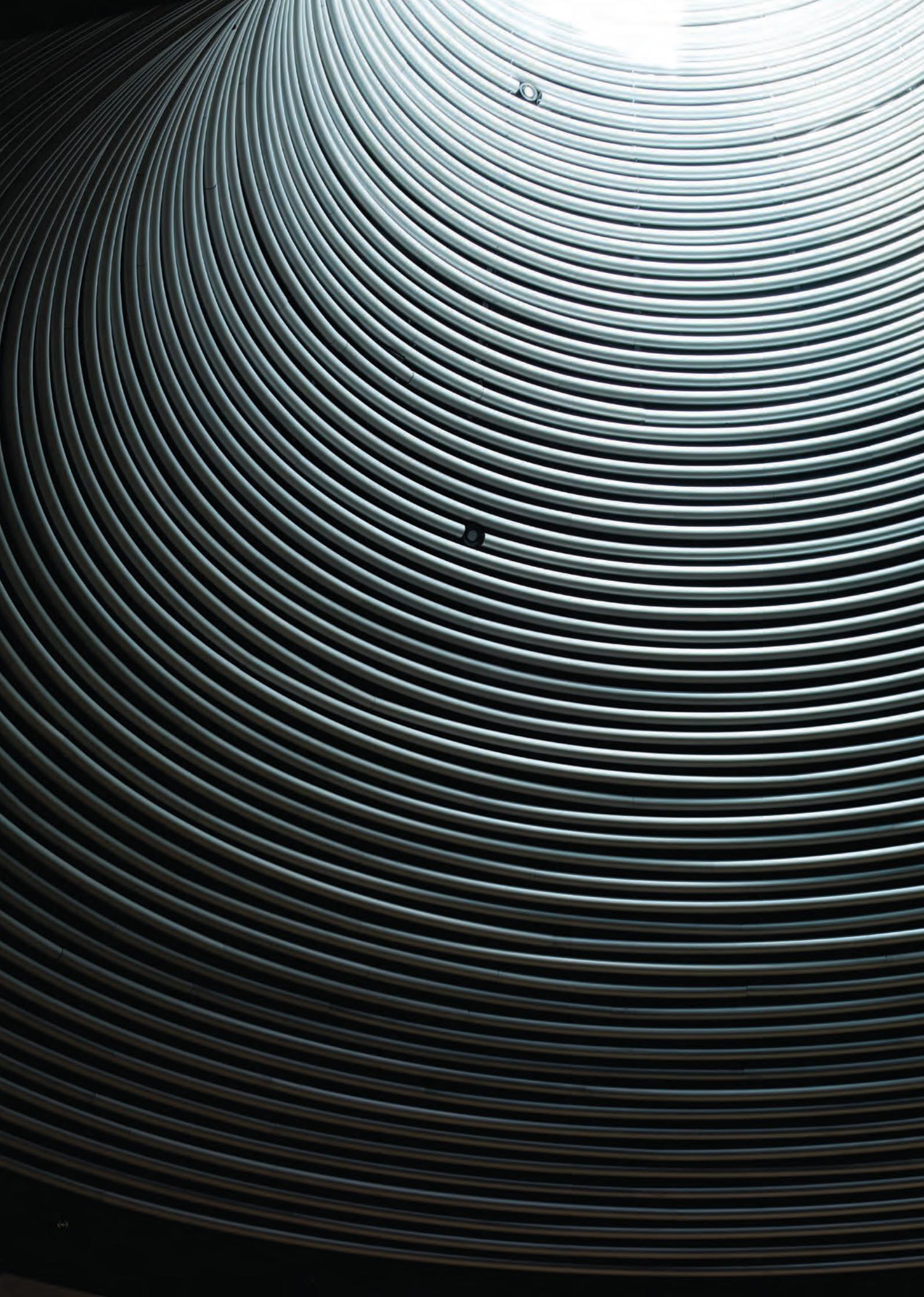
26 November

Nerys Evans, Assembly Member for Mid and West Wales, becomes the first person to use the Welsh language in an official capacity at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.



Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

2009



March	<p>25 March The First Assembly Committee proposed Measure is introduced. The Proposed National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards Measure is introduced by the Assembly's Standards Committee following a period of consultation.</p>
May	<p>12 May The National Assembly for Wales celebrates its 10th anniversary.</p>
June	<p>29 June The Senedd welcomes its 750,000th visitor since it opened in February 2006.</p> <p>An online log of Assembly Members' expenses claims is launched on the National Assembly for Wales' website.</p>
July	<p>6 July The Report of the Independent Review Panel on arrangements for the financial support of Assembly Members, Getting it Right for Wales, is published.</p> <p>8 July The Assembly Commission responds to the report of the Independent Review Panel and agrees to accept the report's recommendations in full. (Statement by the Llywydd)</p> <p>14 July The Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Australian Parliament, Sir Harry Jenkins, visits the Assembly. (National Assembly for Wales press release)</p> <p>16 July The National Assembly for Wales publishes its second annual report (National Assembly for Wales press release)</p>
September	<p>30 September The Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP visits the National Assembly for Wales.</p>

October

15 October

Jenny Randerson AM's *Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009* becomes the first backbench Assembly Member proposed Measure to receive Royal approval and become a part of Welsh law.

19 October

The first Assembly Commission proposed Measure – The *National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure* – is introduced

November

18 November

The **report of the All Wales Convention** on the Assembly's law-making powers is published.

December

8 December

The First Minister of Wales, the Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan AM, announces in Plenary that he is to step down as First Minister and as Leader of the Labour Party in Wales.

(Link to Record of Proceedings)

9 December

Carwyn Jones AM is appointed as the new First Minister of Wales in Plenary.

(Link to Record of Proceedings)

The *National Assembly for Wales Commissioner for Standards Measure 2009* receives Royal Approval, becoming the first Assembly Committee proposed Measure to do so.

December

10 December

The new First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, announces his new Cabinet

- Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport – Ieuan Wyn Jones AM
- Minister for Business and Budget – Jane Hutt AM
- Minister for Health and Social Services – Edwina Hart AM
- Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing – Jane Davidson AM
- Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning – Leighton Andrews AM
- Minister for Social Justice and Local Government – Carl Sargeant AM
- Minister for Rural Affairs – Elin Jones AM
- Minister for Heritage – Alun Ffred Jones AM
- Deputy Minister for Skills, Innovation and Science – Lesley Griffiths AM
- Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration – Jocelyn Davies AM
- Deputy Minister for Social Services – Gwenda Thomas AM
- Deputy Minister for Children – Huw Lewis AM
- Counsel General and Leader of the Legislative Programme – John Griffiths AM
- Chief Whip – Janice Gregory AM



Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

2010



February

9 February

The Assembly votes on a motion in Plenary to recommend that there should be a referendum on the legislative powers of the Assembly.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

March

1 March

The Assembly Committee on European and External Affairs holds a meeting at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels to take evidence from all four Welsh Members of the European Parliament.

[\(Link to Committee meeting transcript\)](#)

The newly refurbished Pierhead building opens. The venue contains exhibition spaces and can be used for public and Assembly events. A three day festival, The Pierhead Sessions, is held to mark the occasion

May

6 May

UK General Election. One sitting Assembly Member, Alun Cairns AM (Conservatives, South Wales Central) is elected to the UK Parliament as MP for the Vale of Glamorgan. No party has an overall majority in Parliament following the election. A Conservative – Liberal Democrat coalition Government is formed.

In its *Programme for Government*, the new UK Conservative – Liberal Democrat Coalition Government includes a commitment to “...introduce a referendum on further Welsh devolution.”

12 May

Jonathan Morgan AM’s proposed **Legislative Competence Order on Mental Health Services (the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Health and Health Services) Order 2010)** becomes the first backbench Member-proposed Order to receive Royal approval from Her Majesty the Queen in Privy Council.

The **Red Meat Industry (Wales) Measure 2010** becomes the 10th Assembly Measure to receive Royal approval.

19 May

The report of the **Independent Review Panel on Bilingual Services** is published. The recommendations of the report, which outlines the future direction for the Assembly’s bilingual services, are accepted by the Assembly Commission.

27 May

The National Assembly for Wales launches a consultation into its Standing Orders ahead of the fourth Assembly.

June

June 16

The new Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt. Hon. Cheryl Gillan MP, addresses the National Assembly for Wales ahead of a debate on the UK Government's legislative programme.

[\(Link to Record of Proceedings\)](#)

July

2 July

Veronica German AM is sworn in as the new Liberal Democrat Member for the South Wales East region. She replaces Mike German who has been appointed to the House of Lords.

[\(Link to National Assembly for Wales press release\)](#)

21 July

The ***National Assembly for Wales (Remuneration) Measure 2010*** becomes the first Assembly Commission proposed Measure to receive Royal approval. It provides for the establishment of an independent panel which will have future responsibility for setting Assembly Member salaries, allowances and pensions.

September

2 September

The Electoral Commission publishes its **report** on the suggested referendum question on further legislative powers for the Assembly

22 September

The National Assembly for Wales appoints the chair and members of the **Assembly Remuneration Board**.

[\(Read press release\)](#)

30 September

President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, visits the Assembly

[\(Read press release\)](#)

October

6 October

Her Majesty Queen Masenate Mohato Seeiso from the Kingdom of Lesotho visits the Assembly.

14 October

The Assembly Remuneration Board meets for the first time ([Read the Minutes](#))

21 October

The order setting up the referendum on the legislative powers of the Assembly is laid by the Welsh Government. ***The draft National Assembly for Wales Referendum (Assembly Act Provisions) (Referendum Question, Date of Referendum etc) Order 2010*** sets the date of the referendum poll as 3 March 2010 and sets out the question on the ballot paper.

November

9 November

The draft *National Assembly for Wales Referendum (Assembly Act Provisions) (Referendum Question, Date of Referendum etc) Order 2010* is agreed by the Assembly in Plenary

[\(Read Record of Proceedings\)](#)

17 November

Gerard Elias QC is appointed as the National Assembly for Wales' new independent Commissioner for Standards.

22 November

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, The Rt. Hon. Danny Alexander MP, provides evidence to the Assembly's Finance Committee on the implications of the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review

[\(Meeting Transcript\)](#)

24 November

The *National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Amendment of Schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006) Order 2010* is approved by the House of Commons [\(Hansard\)](#)

25 November

The draft *National Assembly for Wales Referendum (Assembly Act Provisions) (Referendum Question, Date of Referendum etc) Order 2010* and the draft *National Assembly for Wales Referendum (Assembly Act Provisions) (Limit on Referendum expenses, etc.) Order 2010* are approved by the House of Commons [\(Hansard\)](#) and House of Lords [\(Hansard\)](#)

30 November

Changes made in Plenary to Committee membership. Jonathan Morgan AM and Nick Ramsay AM are elected to the Health and Wellbeing Committee, Darren Millar AM to the Public Accounts Committee and Davied Melding AM to Legislation Committee No.5.

[\(Read Record of Proceedings\)](#)

December

1 December

Jonathan Morgan AM is elected as Chair of the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee.

7 December

The *Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2010* is approved by the Assembly in Plenary

(Read Record of Proceedings)

15 December

The Referendum Order is made by the Queen in Privy Council, officially marking the start of the referendum period. The referendum will take place on 3 March 2011.

Dai Lloyd AMs *Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) Measure 2010* also receives Royal approval in Privy Council, becoming the second backbench Member proposed Measure to become part of Welsh law.

Key Events in the Development of the National Assembly for Wales

2011



January

20 January

Applications close for the lead campaigners for the Referendum on law-making powers. Two applicants have applied to become 'lead campaigners'.

[\(Read press release\)](#)

25 January

The Electoral Commission announces that it will not appoint 'lead campaigners' for the referendum on the law-making powers of the Assembly

[\(Read Electoral Commission press release\)](#)

27 January

The Electoral Commission launches its **nationwide public information campaign** ahead of the referendum on the law-making powers of the Assembly.

February

9 February

The *Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011* receives Royal approval in Privy Council and becomes part of Welsh law.

March

3 March

The National Assembly for Wales Referendum 2011 takes place.

The question on the ballot paper reads: 'Do you want the Assembly now to be able to make laws on all matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for? Yes / No '

4 March

The official result of the 2011 referendum on Assembly law-making powers is announced. 63.5 per cent voted 'yes' and 36.5 per cent voted 'no'. The turnout for the referendum was 35.6 per cent. .

[\(Members' Research Service paper on the Election Results\)](#)

8 March

The First Minister makes a Plenary Statement outlining the next steps after the Referendum. [\(Read Record of Proceedings\)](#) The Assembly Act Commencement Order is laid before the Assembly.

15 March

The National Assembly for Wales Remuneration Board publishes its determination on Members' pay and allowances, and its report *Fit for Purpose*

[\(Read the report\)](#)

March

16 March

The Assembly passes a motion in Plenary to invite the UK Government to set the date for the next Assembly election after 2011 for Thursday 5 May 2016, due to the potential clash of UK and Assembly elections in 2015.

(Read Record of Proceedings)

In the same Plenary Session, the Assembly agrees a motion to remake the **Standing Orders of the Assembly**, to take effect from 5 May 2011.

(Read Record of Proceedings)

29 March

The ***Government of Wales Act 2006 (Commencement of Assembly Act Provisions, Transitional and Saving Provisions and Modifications) Order 2011*** is approved in Plenary. The order amends the Government of Wales Act 2006 and means that from the Fourth Assembly onwards the Assembly will be able to pass Acts rather than Measures.

(Read Record of Proceedings)

30 March

The final Plenary session of the Third Assembly is held in the Siambr. The ceremonial removal of the mace marks the end of business for the current Assembly.

(Read Record of Proceedings)

31 March

From midnight on 31 March 2011, the National Assembly for Wales enters a period of dissolution, the first such period of dissolution for the Assembly. During this period, there are no Assembly Members and no Assembly Business takes place.

April

1 April

Tributes are paid to the late Brynle Williams, Assembly Member for the North Wales Region.

May

4 May

National Assembly for Wales' elections take place.



15:27