

Further powers

The referendum result explained

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Yes to further powers

Following a referendum on the National Assembly for Wales's legislative powers held on 03 March 2011, the people of Wales voted in favour of granting the National Assembly for Wales further powers for making laws in Wales.

Previously, the National Assembly had powers to make laws for Wales on some subjects within the 20 areas where it has devolved power. To be able to make laws on additional subjects within the 20 devolved areas, it needed the agreement of the UK Parliament to do so on a case by case basis. Information on the areas within which the Assembly can make laws is available on page 03.

What the result means

Following a 'yes' vote in the referendum, the National Assembly for Wales will now be able to pass laws on all subjects in the 20 devolved areas without first needing the agreement of the UK Parliament. The result of the referendum does not mean that the Assembly can make laws in more areas than before.

There will no longer be a need for negotiation between the governments of the UK and Wales over what law-making powers should or should not be devolved to the Assembly. The 'yes' vote also removes the involvement of Members of the House of Commons and House of Lords in scrutinising proposals to give the Assembly the power to make laws. Instead, the responsibility rests on the Welsh Government and the Members of the National Assembly to decide how to use the Assembly's law-making powers.

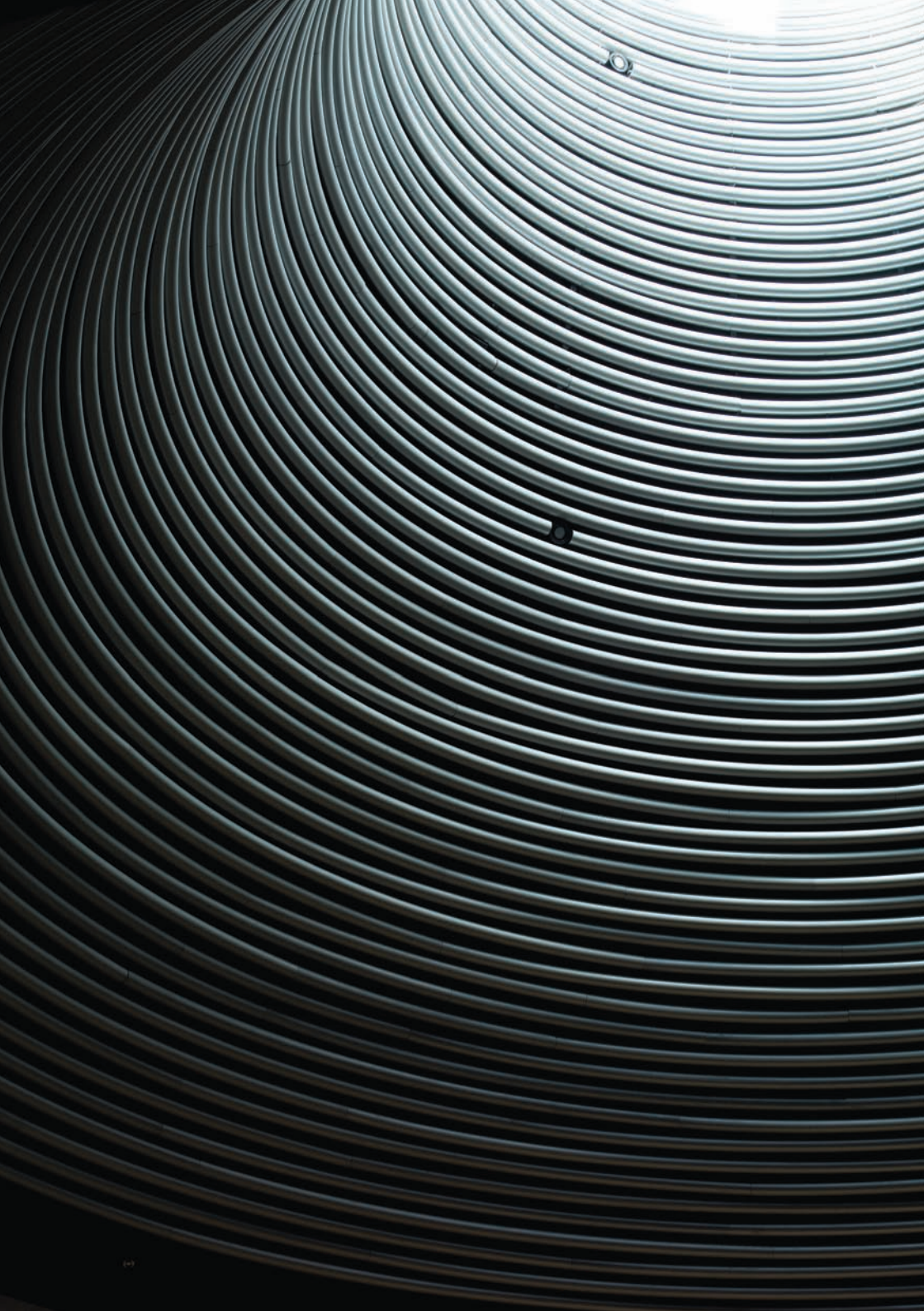
Assembly laws will no longer be called Assembly Measures. Proposed laws will now be called Bills, and enacted laws will be called Acts. The Measures made since 2007 will continue to be called Assembly Measures and will continue to have the same legal effect. What will change is that it will not be possible to make any more Measures and new laws made by the Assembly will be called Acts.

Legislative Competence Orders will no longer be necessary, as these were requests to the UK Parliament to allow the Assembly to make laws in new subjects within the 20 devolved areas.

Devolved fields

The National Assembly can make laws for Wales in the following areas affecting your life:

- 01 Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development
- 02 Ancient monuments and historic buildings
- 03 Culture
- 04 Economic development
- 05 Education and training
- 06 Environment
- 07 Fire and rescue services and promotion of fire safety
- 08 Food
- 09 Health and health services
- 10 Highways and transport
- 11 Housing
- 12 Local government
- 13 National Assembly for Wales
- 14 Public administration
- 15 Social welfare
- 16 Sport and recreation
- 17 Tourism
- 18 Town and country planning
- 19 Water and flood defence
- 20 Welsh language



Next – the Assembly election

Now that you've had your say in the referendum, you can choose who uses the powers to make laws in Wales when the National Assembly election is held on 05 May 2011.

The National Assembly for Wales is made up of 60 Assembly Members. Forty of them are constituency Assembly Members, representing the same local constituencies as Westminster MPs; the other 20 are regional Assembly Members, who represent one of the five regions of Wales (four for each region).

So everyone in Wales is represented by one constituency Member and four regional Members.

This means that you will have two votes in the 2011 Assembly election; one for your constituency Member and one for your regional Members. A Member is elected for each of the 40 constituencies in Wales by the 'first past the post' system, where the candidate with the greatest number of votes wins the seat. Regional Members are elected by a form of proportional representation known as the 'Additional Member System', where voters vote for a political party. This system is intended to ensure that the overall number of seats held by each political party reflects more closely the share of the vote that the party receives on a regional basis.

You can find out your constituency and region by visiting our website, www.assemblywales.org, or calling our information line on 0845 010 5500. You can also find out who's standing in this year's election by visiting individual party and local authority websites.

It's really important that you use your vote in the 2011 election. That way, you will decide who represents you in the Assembly. Keep an eye on our website, www.vote2011.org, for Vote 2011 news and dates for your diary.