

What to expect when you visit the Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru (the 'Senedd')

Sensory issues guide for neurodivergent people

This is an Easy Read version of the Senedd leaflet '**Sensory issues guide for neurodivergent people**'



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

How to use this document



This is an Easy Read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.

You may need support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Some words may be difficult to understand.

These are in **bold blue writing** and have been explained in a box beneath the word.



Where the document says '**we**', this means the **Senedd**.



If you would like a version in large print, Braille, audio tape or another language please contact:



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Phone: 0300 200 6565

Email: contact@senedd.wales

Website: <http://www.senedd.wales>

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Introduction: Your visit to the Senedd

We want you to have a good time when you visit the Senedd.

We want to make sure you are happy and calm. We want to make sure that nothing upsets you.

This guide is about what you can expect when you visit our buildings.

There are:

- things you may see
- things you may hear
- things you may smell
- things you may touch.

Some of these things may be new to you.

About the Senedd

The Senedd is a group of 60 people from different parts of Wales.

These people are called Members of the Senedd.

Their job is to speak up for the people in their part of Wales, and help them with what they need.

Members of the Senedd:

- stand up for what is important to the people of Wales
- make new laws for Wales
- make sure the Welsh Government is doing what it should do.

Our buildings

The Senedd has 3 buildings:

- The Senedd. This is where Members of the Senedd make laws, and talk about the things that affect people in Wales.
- Ty Hywel. This is where Members of the Senedd and their staff have their offices.
- The Pierhead Building. This is where we hold some of our events.

What will happen when you arrive

At the Senedd and Tŷ Hywel buildings we have security.

When you first get to the Senedd or Tŷ Hywel, you will have to go through a security check.

You will be asked to empty your pockets into a tray.

You will be asked to take off your coat, and put your bag through a scanner.

Your coat, bag and the things that were in your pocket, will be given back to you after the security checks.

You are not allowed to bring in anything dangerous - like guns, knives or scissors.

If you bring something dangerous with you, it will be taken off you.
You may not be get it back.

After this, you will walk through an arch. The arch will beep if you
have anything that is metal on you.

You can ask for the beep to be switched off.

If the arch beeps when you walk through it, a security officer will
check what set off the beep with a hand held **detector**.

A **detector** is a machine we use to find something, like metal.

The security officer will move the **detector** around your body. It
should not touch you.

What you may see, hear, smell and touch at the Senedd

What you may see

Armed police officers at the security desk and walking around our buildings.

If you look over one of our balconies, you may feel dizzy because of how high the balcony is.

There may be bright lights in some rooms. Some rooms can be very dark. The light can change while you are in a room.

You may see paintings on the wall. You are not allowed to touch the paintings.

You may see signs for **loop systems**. These are for people who are deaf and use a hearing aid.

A **loop system** is a special type of sound system to help people with hearing aids, hear more clearly.

What you may hear

- **The Call to Plenary bell.** The **Call to Plenary bell** only goes off in the Senedd building. It is very loud. You can hear what it sounds like on the Senedd website:

<https://senedd.wales/visit/neurodivergent-people>

The **Call to Plenary bell** goes off at 1:25pm and 1:30pm. You can plan your visit around these times if you want to.

The **Call to Plenary bell** is the bell that tells Members of the Senedd to go to the Siambr. The Siambr is the name of the room where Members of the Senedd meet.

- The fire alarm. We test the fire alarms every week. You can plan your visit around this is you want to:
 - At the Senedd building we test the fire alarms every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:45am.
 - At the Pierhead building we test the fire alarms every Monday at 9:30am
 - At Tŷ Hywel building we test the fire alarms every Monday at 9:00

- The sound of building work – like drilling.
- The noise from an event or an activity being held at one of the buildings.
- Noise from TVs.
- In some places, we may play a film or a sound track which can be loud.
- Food trolleys. The noise of the food trolley wheels on the floor is very loud in the Senedd.
- In the Senedd building the blinds open **Automatically** and this makes a noise.

Automatically means moving by itself.

- The hand dryers in the toilets. They are very loud.
- In our lifts we have an **automatic** voice which tells you which floor you are on.

What you may smell

- You may smell paint if there is somewhere in the building being painted.
- You may smell cleaning products.
- You may smell food in some places.

What you may touch

- You may shake hands with someone. If you do not like shaking hands, please let a member of staff know.

If you need to rest

If you need to go somewhere quiet, please ask a member of staff. They will show you to the quiet room. You can sit and rest in the quiet room until you feel better.

More information

If you would like more information about what will be happening on the day of your visit please phone or email us.

We can arrange for you to visit at a quiet time. We can also help you with other things that will make your visit easier.

Phone us on 0300 200 6565

Email us at contact@senedd.wales

Hard Words

Automatically

Automatically means moving by itself.

Call to Plenary bell

The Call to Plenary bell tells all the Members of the Senedd to go to the Siambr.

The Siambr is the name of the room where all the Members of the Senedd meet.

The Call to Plenary bell only goes off in the Senedd building. You can hear what it sounds like on the Senedd' website:

<https://senedd.wales/visit/neurodivergent-people>.

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Detector

A **detector** is a machine we use to find something - like metal.

Loop system

A **loop system** is a special type of sound system to help people with hearing aids, hear more clearly.