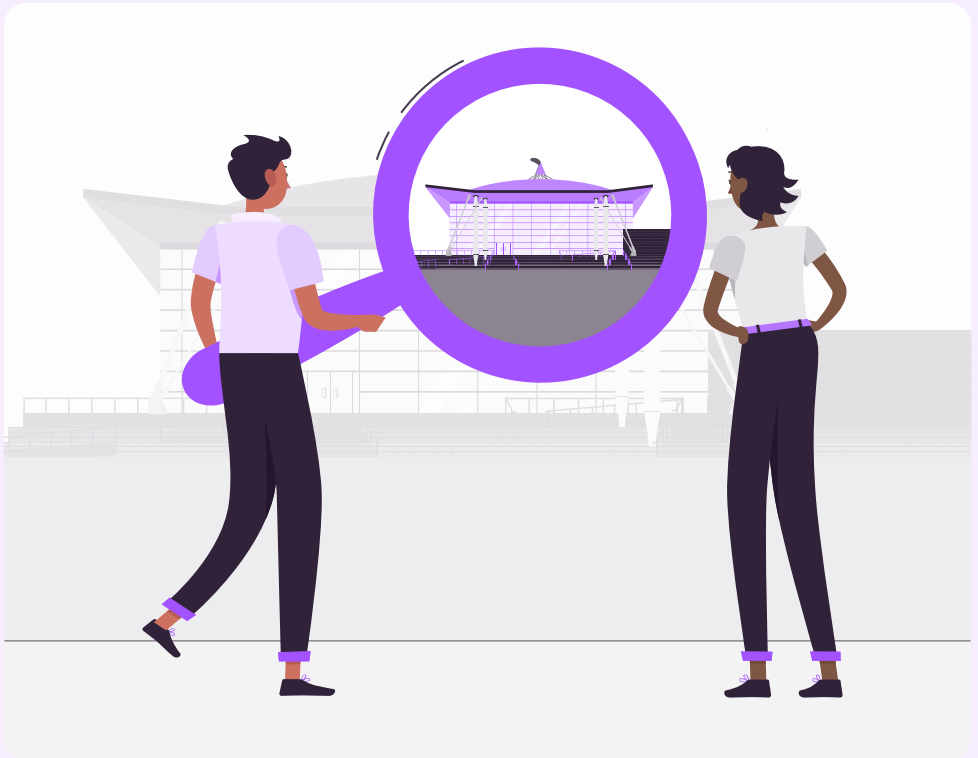


# Shaping Wales:

Your Senedd



**The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people.**

Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

# Your Senedd, working for you

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**Wales has its own parliament – the Senedd.**

The Senedd passes laws about all sorts of things which affect your daily life in Wales.

Things like hospitals and GPs, schools and education, road and rail transport, farming, culture, the environment and the Welsh language.

The Senedd is made up of 96 Members elected from all over Wales. They represent you and your community in the Welsh Parliament.

Let's take a closer look at how the Senedd works.

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# Devolution and Wales

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Since 1999, decisions about Wales have been made in Wales.

This is because of devolution.

'Devolution' means the power to make laws and policies for Wales has been transferred from the UK Government to the Welsh Government, and from the UK Parliament to the Welsh Parliament – the Senedd.



You can find out more by visiting [senedd.wales/devolution](https://senedd.wales/devolution)

# Making laws for Wales

**Members of the Senedd discuss, check and make laws that shape life in Wales.**

Laws are rules that make sure you receive equal treatment and respect. They protect those who need it and provide ways of settling disagreements when they happen.

The UK Parliament makes laws that apply to all parts of the UK. However, since 2007, the Senedd has made laws in many areas that only apply to Wales.



**Find out more**  
[senedd.wales/legislation](https://senedd.wales/legislation)

# Checking the Welsh Government

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## The Welsh Government and the Senedd have different roles.

The Welsh Government suggests laws, makes policies, and decides how to spend money on things like hospitals, schools, and roads in Wales.

Members of the Senedd look closely at any new laws the Welsh Government puts forward before they are passed. They discuss the laws and might suggest changes to improve them.

They check the policies the Welsh Government makes and look at how money is spent on the services the Welsh Government provides.

**Members of the Senedd make sure the Welsh Government is working for the best interests of the people of Wales.**

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## The Welsh Government is responsible for:



Spending money on public services in Wales.



Managing public services in Wales.



Planning how Wales will grow and develop in the future.

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## The Senedd is responsible for:



Checking the work of the Welsh Government.



Making new Welsh laws.



Looking at how the Welsh Government spends money.

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## Did you know

Senedd is the Welsh word for Parliament.

# Representing your interests

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The Members who represent you in the Senedd have the power to make decisions that affect everyone in Wales.

The Senedd makes laws for Wales. Welsh laws look at the situation in Wales, which might be different to other parts of the UK.

However, some areas are still the responsibility of the UK Parliament and UK Government.



You can find out more by visiting [senedd.wales/powers](https://www.senedd.wales/powers)

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## Wales can make its own laws and policies about:



Agriculture and Food



Education



Communities and Housing



Health and Care Services



Welsh Language



Environment

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## The UK Government and UK Parliament make laws and policies about:



Air Transport



Nuclear Energy



Outer Space



Foreign Affairs



Defence



Policing

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## Wales Act 2017

The Wales Act 2017 changed how devolution works in Wales.

Before this, Wales could only make laws in 21 areas, set out by the Government of Wales Act 2006.

# Representing you and your community

Members of the Senedd come from all parts of Wales to represent their communities in the Senedd.

When they're not working in Cardiff Bay, most Members have a local office. You can speak to them about issues in your community and they can take your concerns back to the Senedd.

Everyone in Wales is represented by six Members of the Senedd. You can contact any of them – in person, online, or by phone – no matter who you voted for. They all represent you equally.



Find out who represents you, and how to  
get in touch with them  
[senedd.wales/members](https://senedd.wales/members)

# Agreeing new Welsh taxes

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**Members of the Senedd look at every suggestion for a new Welsh tax.**

You pay taxes in many different ways. Taxes are used to pay for public services such as hospitals, schools and roads.

HM Revenue and Customs collect taxes from everyone in the UK. However, since 2018, the Welsh Revenue Authority has been responsible for collecting some taxes in Wales. These taxes stay in Wales and are spent by the Welsh Government on the public services you use every day.

This was the first time Wales collected its own taxes in over 800 years.

Every suggestion for a new tax needs to be checked by Members of the Senedd to make sure it's fair, and will benefit everyone in Wales.



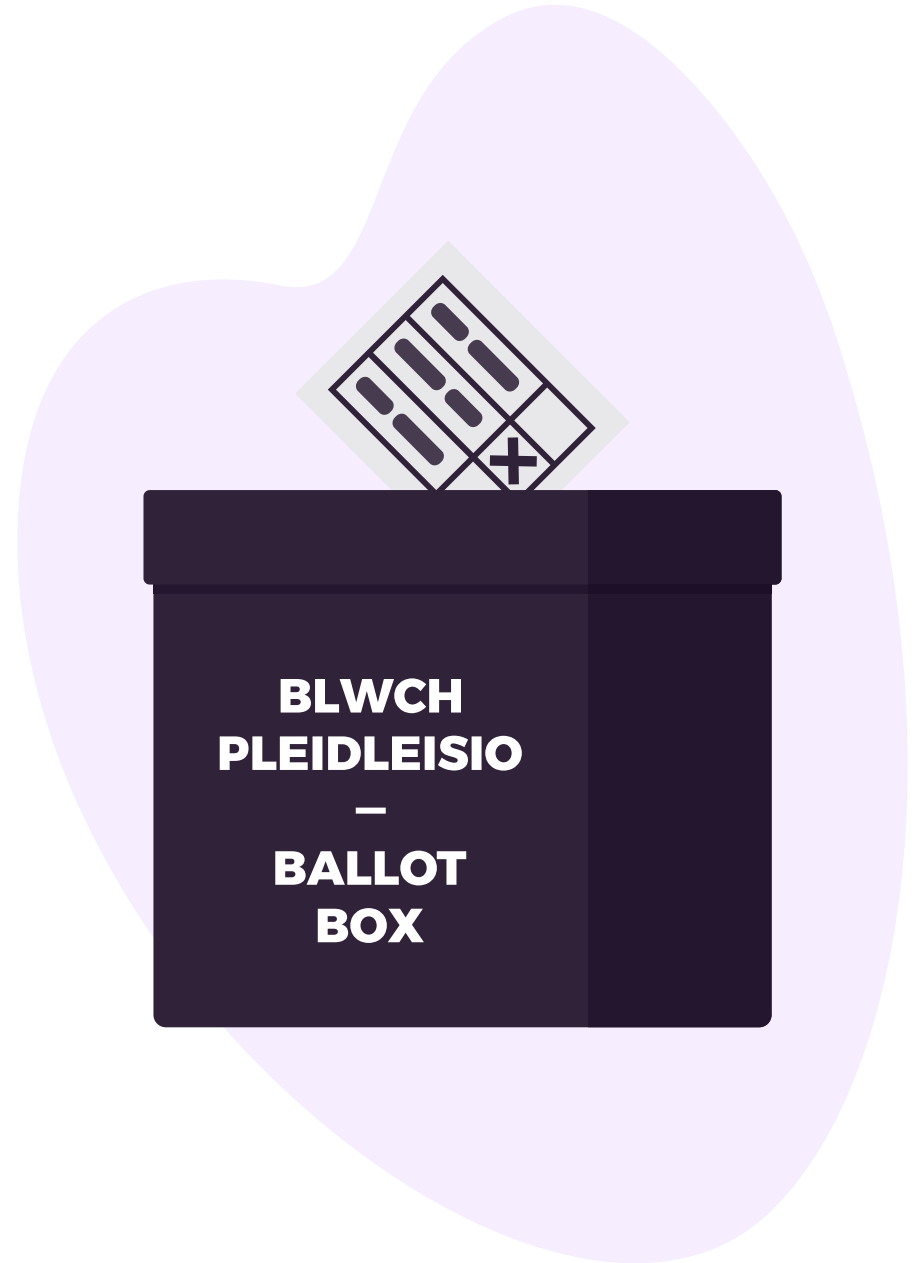
# Your vote

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If you're aged 16 or over and live in Wales, you can vote in a Senedd election.

A Senedd election is when voters in Wales decide who they want to represent their local area - their constituency - in the Senedd. They happen every four years.

Each area has six 'seats' in the Senedd, which means each constituency has six Members. This means that wherever you live in Wales, six Members represent you and your community in the Senedd.



You can find out more by visiting [senedd.wales/how-are-members-elected](https://senedd.wales/how-are-members-elected)

# Contact us

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## Do you have a question about the Senedd?

There are many ways you can get in touch to find out more about how the Senedd works and how you can have your say.

Get in touch using the details below, or visit us in Cardiff Bay to speak to someone in person.



[www.senedd.wales](http://www.senedd.wales)



[contact@senedd.wales](mailto:contact@senedd.wales)



0300 200 6565



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