

ENRICHING OUR EVIDENCE:

A strategy to better connect the Senedd with
the research community





The Senedd and research

Rigorous and impartial research evidence is essential for effective scrutiny and good law-making.

This strategy aims to broaden, deepen, and diversify the evidence available to the Senedd, to:

- improve the quality of scrutiny, and
- increase the impact of research.

The strategy builds on our existing strong foundation of academic engagement to create a broader and more strategic approach to knowledge exchange.

Knowledge exchange is a two-way process which **brings together** the research **community**, Members, and officials to share their **ideas** and **expertise** for the benefit of parliamentary and research activities.

Why this?

We want our knowledge exchange activities to ensure that the best and most diverse range of research evidence is available to the Senedd, to support effective law-making and the rigorous scrutiny of government actions.

This strategy is based on the principle that our knowledge exchange activities will:

- enrich the **quality** and increase the **diversity of evidence** used by the Senedd;
- supplement Senedd Research **expertise and capacity**;
- help the research community to **understand the Senedd**;
- take a strategic approach to **identifying research topics**, based on Members' and committees' research demands, and
- develop **new or novel evidence** and **analysis**.



Strategic Objectives

**1**

Sell the Senedd as a place of influence

We will develop a ‘brand’ for knowledge exchange in the Senedd, and tell our many stories of impact. We will develop a network of ambassadors within the research community, drawing on previous PhD interns, fellows, and researchers who have successfully engaged with the Senedd in other ways.

**2**

Make it easy for researchers to engage with the Senedd

We will develop a package of tools, training and resources to enhance researchers’ understanding of the Senedd and equip them to contribute their expertise. We will communicate the full range of opportunities for researchers to engage with the Senedd in a single, easy to access location (either a Twitter account or online portal), and develop new, more flexible engagement opportunities such as guest articles, surveys, and rapid evidence reviews.

3

Diversify the evidence used by the Senedd

We will create a ‘knowledge network’, with wider and more formal partnerships to increase the pool of experts to which the Senedd has access, including internationally. We will harness the potential of remote evidence, monitor who gives evidence to committees, and find ways to overcome barriers to participation within the research community.

4

Broaden and deepen the evidence base available to the Senedd

We will develop long term ‘areas of research interest’, based on the research demands of Members, committees and staff, to focus resources and strategically plan engagements like fellowships, research commissions, and events. We will identify and fill gaps in the evidence needed for good scrutiny, use knowledge exchange activities



5

Make the most of internal expertise, skills and experience

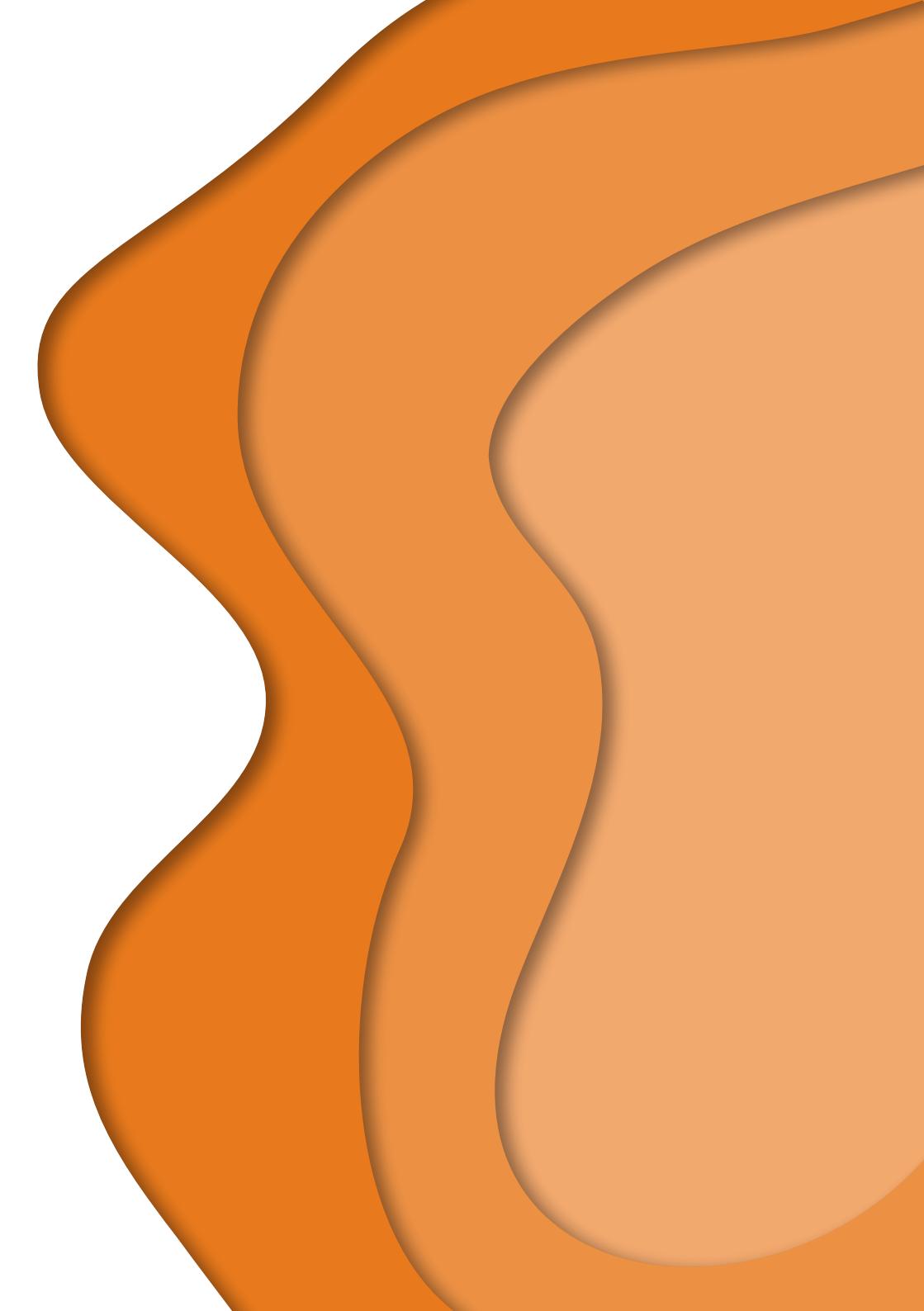
We will share our internal expertise, skills and experience more widely with other parliaments, students, and new staff. We will contribute to the academic literature on the Senedd and parliamentary studies, and use our knowledge exchange relationships for staff learning and development through reverse fellowships and secondments.



6

Design better parliamentary services, and evaluate effectiveness

We will use research evidence to support the design and evaluation of our parliamentary services (particularly in the Business and Engagement directorates), improve our internal research methods, and use external expertise for peer review.



Contact us

If you want to find out more about our knowledge exchange programme, get in touch.

 research.senedd.wales/knowledge-exchange

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