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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Information Document
on the implementation of the
Recommendations for Immediate Action
based on the 5th monitoring cycle

Submitted by the United Kingdom
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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

**Member State Implementation of the Recommendations contained in the
Committee of Experts' fifth evaluation report on the UNITED KINGDOM**

1. Cornish

Recommendation for immediate action

- a. Devolve responsibility and provide funding to the County of Cornwall and Cornwall Council for the promotion of Cornish**

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

1. Cornwall Council almost entirely holds responsibility on language planning and funding for Cornish, but is subject to competing pressures for other local services. Cornwall is the only local authority in England with its own minority language, and Cornwall Council is in the unique position of having to discharge the undertakings of international agreements such as the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and the Framework Convention for National Minorities on behalf of the United Kingdom Government.
2. The United Kingdom Government provided a one-year grant of £150k in 2019/2020, which enabled a range of Cornish language projects. This was a positive step in enabling Cornish language groups to create modern resources for teaching and using Cornish.
3. The United Kingdom Government was unable to provide direct funding to Cornwall Council for such projects in 2020/2021. The United Kingdom Government has reiterated its continued commitment to supporting and promoting the Cornish language and its heritage, under both the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
4. Cornwall Council is now seeking a memorandum of understanding with the United Kingdom Government to establish clear policy support for Cornish and a regular funding allocation to enable investment in and development of Cornish. Stable funding would create opportunities to develop base services and encourage more partner working.
5. Cornwall Council has suggested that allocating an identified lead on language planning for Cornish and a funding allocation would remove the issue from local political debates; Cornwall Council believes that they would be well placed to deliver this duty. Cornwall Council has stated that, as there is little reference or statement of support for Cornish in current United Kingdom Government policy, document, or website, devolution of such a duty (i.e. to local partners) could make clearer the roles of the United Kingdom Government as signatory of international agreements at state level (namely the Language Charter and Framework Convention). This would also support delivery of these international commitments at the Cornwall level by Cornwall Council on behalf of the United Kingdom Government.
6. The United Kingdom Government also continues to represent Cornwall formally on the British-Irish Council's Indigenous and Minority Languages working

group. Though full membership of the British-Irish Council remains available only to Devolved Nations, the United Kingdom Government has pledged to continue to work with Cornwall Council, for example by regularly attending meetings at an official level, to ensure that Cornwall Council's views are considered. The United Kingdom Government recognises that this forum provides a good opportunity to share best practice and ideas with others on the preservation and promotion of minority languages.

Further recommendations

b. Ensure that existing or new administrative division do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of Cornish

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

7. Existing administrative divisions are mainly contiguous with the territory of Cornwall, crucially in terms of the education authority, for Cornwall Council and for parliamentary constituency boundaries.
8. The United Kingdom Government proposed a cross-boundary parliamentary constituency in 2011. Though no longer planned, stakeholders in Cornwall are seeking amendments to the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill 2020 to ensure that future parliamentary constituency boundaries remain aligned with the accepted boundary of Cornwall.

c. Provide forms and means for the teaching and study of Cornish at all appropriate stages

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

9. Cornwall Council and its community groups are developing resources for learning Cornish, particularly focusing on IT to produce language-learning apps and to provide online classes.
10. Cornwall Council has commissioned the preparation of a Cornish Language Charter for Schools, for progressive delivery of the teaching of Cornish, alongside a flexible set of resources to enable this goal. As well as providing base resources for interested schools, this initiative will also focus effort on schools willing to teach the language beyond basic level. It will set out a progression path for schools to move from taster classes, to beginner courses, and beyond.
11. Cornwall Council, in partnership with the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC), the Welsh assessment board, provides accredited assessments as part of ongoing efforts to ensure delivery of Cornish within the national curriculum as a modern language. WJEC has offered the necessary support,

as no English examination board at present will offer a Cornish language GCSE.

12. Cornish Council has suggested that clear guidance from the Department of Education that Cornish can be taught as a modern language under the national curriculum would provide assurance to teachers and schools and enable teachers to focus on delivery rather than making the case for the language.
13. The aforementioned grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in 2019 enabled Cornish language groups to create a range of teaching materials. This Government grant was a useful investment in some base resources; support for teacher training is required to deliver lessons in schools.

d. Take further action in order to facilitate and/or encourage the use of Cornish, in speech and writing, in public life (education, judicial authorities, administrative authorities and public services, media, cultural activities and facilities, economic and social life, transfrontier exchanges) and private life.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

14. Cornwall Council oversees a Cornish language programme comprising projects to encourage the use of Cornish in public life. The Council itself installs bilingual signage and uses Cornish in parts of documents. The Council has clear guidance and requirements on the use of Cornish within its brand guidelines.
15. Community groups provide opportunities to learn and use Cornish, holding events, festivals and classes throughout Cornwall as well as in London, Bristol and Cardiff.
16. The community groups also raise funding for online radio and video programmes in Cornish, as mainstream media still only deliver 5 minutes of news in Cornish each week (on BBC Radio Cornwall).
17. Research shows that the establishment of a public service media could better serve Cornwall, create opportunities for local companies, and ensure opportunities for the broadcasting of language. Existing media channels in the United Kingdom have failed to commission programmes in Cornish, or broadcast programmes produced in Cornish.
18. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's £150k grant in 2019 provided funding for media and digital resources, training, and new education resources. The package included a partner project with S4C (the Welsh language public service broadcaster) to develop application games and a range of multimedia such as videos in Cornish. This is a useful model for future burden-sharing projects with Celtic language broadcasters.

19. 'Screen Cornwall' started in 2019 as Cornwall's film and media agency to develop more opportunities for programme making in Cornwall generally. Its projects show wealth of talent, but the agency struggles with limited media platform for audiences.
20. Cornwall Council supports an annual short film commission with Falmouth University. The 2019 grant also enabled the creation a children's programme, but no United Kingdom broadcaster has yet agreed to take the programme.
21. The research study setting out the case for a Cornish public service media is here¹.

e. Maintain and develop links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Cornish, and establish cultural relations with other linguistic groups.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

The Cornish language community maintains links in the following ways:

22. In an official capacity and on language planning, through participation in the British Irish Council as an observer member;
23. In community and cultural fields, through events such as the 'Lowender Peran' music and dance festival in Cornwall where all Celtic languages are present, and Celtic events such as the 'Pan Celtic' festival in Ireland and 'Lorient Interceltique' in Brittany. A Cornish poet took part in an arts project in Galway in 2020 as part of its years as European City of Culture;
24. Selection of Cornish language films for the Celtic Media Festival in 2019 and 2020. Participation in events like these help the Cornish community understand how other minority languages are using and developing digital media, and provide a platform to showcase the language and Cornish talent;
25. Performers themselves or voluntary contributions support participation financially, which limits scope to reach out to other minority groups or participate in more events.
26. Cornwall Council has highlighted that Cornish young people would benefit in particular from more exchange opportunities to meet people from similar cultural backgrounds and to understand the value of their culture and raise their ambitions. At present, this experience is limited to those who go away to university or with the means to travel.

¹ <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/43585685/a-case-for-cornish-public-service-media-summary.pdf>

f. Promote the study of research on Cornish at universities or equivalent institutions

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

27. Akademi Kernewek, the official academic body responsible for the linguistic development of the Cornish language, is seeking the introduction of a Cornish language module at the University of Exeter campus in Cornwall and a decision will be taken early in 2021.
28. The University of Exeter is developing research both into the history of the Cornish language and culture, and into modern day use of Cornish. Both the Institute of Cornish Studies and the language department are taking active interest in the Cornish language. As a small language with limited means, the work of higher education provides useful evaluation that would otherwise prove unaffordable.
29. Falmouth University has supported the annual short film commission in Cornish and there is interest from other project teams with the University in applied use of the language, e.g. in the localisation of video games.

g. Promote transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Cornish, including by giving Cornwall Council full membership in the British-Irish Council.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

30. Cornwall is an observer member of the British Irish Council (BIC) Indigenous Minority Language meetings. The meetings take place three to four times a year and are an important opportunity to share good practice and learn from other language planning programmes. With its very limited budget, Cornwall Council believes that tapping into the experience of the other languages is vital.
31. Cornwall Council believes its observer status is anomalous – as ‘Cornish’ is the only language with this status. The Council feels there appears to be no constitutional reason why the group invites the United Kingdom Government to attend on behalf of Cornish, citing the Council and other local partners’ active role in language planning for Cornish. Cornish would not be the smallest language by number of speakers, so size of language population is not a barrier to membership.
32. As set out in paragraph 6, full membership of the BIC is only available to Devolved Nations, so Cornwall Council may have only observer status. However, the United Kingdom Government appreciates the valuable

engagement of Cornwall Council representative to the work of the BIC in the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages thematic policy area.

h. Raise awareness of Cornish in education and training as well as in the mass media.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

33. Cornwall Council is developing a Cornish curriculum to enable schools to deliver the English national curriculum from a Cornish perspective, highlighting relevant opportunities to introduce Cornish culture, heritage, and language across the United Kingdom.
34. Media coverage is very limited and it is difficult to broadcast any material in Cornish. BBC Radio Cornwall broadcasts a 5-minute news summary each week; otherwise, coverage is limited to short articles with no other programmes in Cornish.
35. As no existing broadcaster in the United Kingdom will commission or broadcast Cornish language programmes, Cornwall Council has proposed a new Cornish public media service, stating that a commissioning fund from the United Kingdom Department for Culture, Media, and Sport would enable the creation of Cornish content as a first step.

2. Manx Gaelic

Recommendation for immediate action

a. Make available primary education in Manx Gaelic in additional municipalities

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

36. The Department of Education, Sport, and Culture has developed a plan to continue to expand regionalised Secondary School provisions for teaching through the Manx Language. As demand for Primary Manx Medium Education grows, monitoring will take place in order to ascertain the need for expansion. The authorities will approach this strategically, but regrettably, it cannot be actioned immediately. This is a longer-term action linked to the development of the language within the Manx Language Strategy, 2021-2026. In addition, a programme is ongoing to continue to develop fluent speakers who are also able to teach. At present, there is an insufficient number of teachers to staff additional schools in other parts of the Island. The continued growth of fluent speakers of Manx who are also able to teach will be a key aim of the Manx Language Strategy, 2021-2026.

Further recommendations

b. Extend the use of Manx Gaelic in pre-school education.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

37. Addressed as part of Theme 4 within the Manx Language Strategy: ‘Lifelong Learning of Manx from Early to Later Years’.
38. Moinjer Veggey, an educational charity, exists to promote the knowledge and use of Manx Gaelic among young people. It currently runs ‘Possan Cloie’, a bilingual parent and toddler group, and 2 nurseries. Their aim is to provide education on and through the Manx language, giving children the advantages of learning a second language at an early age. The authorities are developing training to support pre-school providers in using Manx Gaelic, for example, through simple greetings, games, and songs.

c. Adopt a long-term strategy setting out objectives and milestones for Manx Gaelic pre-school, primary and secondary education (number of pupils and speakers), the use of this language in the media (including television and newspaper) and in the administrative field (place names, signage)

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

39. There is a three-year development plan in place for the Manx Language Service, which covers primary and secondary education. This will continue to be a focus of the Manx Language Strategy, 2021 – 2026.
40. The Gaelic Broadcasting Committee is developing a strategy for the use of the language in the media, but is waiting for new legislation to be progressed.
41. Manx language broadcasting, as specified in the Broadcasting Act 1993², will soon be replaced by the Communications Bill 2018³ (awaiting Royal Assent).
42. The Gaelic Broadcasting Committee, along with the public service broadcaster, Manx Radio, ensures the provision of programmes in Manx, and bilingually in Manx and English, with increased incidental use of Manx during scheduling. The Committee reports annually to Tynwald within the Culture Vannin Report⁴.

² https://legislation.gov.uk/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1993/1993-0012/BroadcastingAct1993_2.pdf?zoom_highlight=broadcasting+act#search=%22broadcasting%20act%22

³ <https://legislation.gov.uk/cms/images/LEGISLATION/BILLS/2018/2018-0006/CommunicationsBill2018.pdf>

⁴ www.culturevannin.im/page_443174.html

43. There is a wide range of Manx language programming on Manx Radio⁵.
44. There is no terrestrial or digital television channel for the Isle of Man. Television broadcasting is therefore via the internet and is limited in scope. In particular, 'Jeebin', 'The Manx Language Network' and 'Culture Vannin' produce and distribute audio and audio-visual content in Manx. They also work with internet-based television e.g. MMTV/IOMTV to produce bilingual and Manx only versions of some broadcasts⁶.
45. Culture Vannin occasionally funds the regular publication of a newspaper article for Isle of Man Newspapers in Manx produced by fluent speakers, including academics⁷.
46. The Manx Language Advisory Council coins new terms and place names e.g. street names. Referring to street names, the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture's Rural Signage Project Brief states: "it is important to incorporate an appropriate amount of Manx Gaelic".
47. Culture Vannin regularly contacts local authorities to remind them of their free translation service, and to encourage authorities to use bilingual signs wherever possible, especially where replacement of signs is imminent.
48. Report of the Select Committee on the Greater Use of Manx Gaelic p.2 paragraph (4) (1985)⁸ further highlights examples of road signs, government signage and destinations displayed on the front of buses.
49. Culture Vannin advertise their translation service to government departments and authorities online, through business cards and emails, and ensures that translations such as these are free.
50. The Tynwald approved Report of the Select Committee on the Greater Use of Manx Gaelic (1985) supports United Kingdom fulfilment of this recommendation⁹:
51. Grant applications to Culture Vannin and Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, as well as job applications for language posts within Culture Vannin, Bunscoill Ghaelgagh and the Manx Language Unit are examples of greater use of Manx Gaelic. It is possible and acceptable to write banking cheques in Manx.
52. The Standing Orders of Tynwald Court also outline that Manx is admissible in the Tynwald Court; permitting applicants to present petitions in Manx¹⁰.

⁵ www.manxradio.com/news/manx-gaelic/, www.manxradio.com/podcasts/abbyr-shen-reesht-say-that-again/, www.manxradio.com/on-air/claare-ny-gael/, www.manxradio.com/on-air/shiaqht-laa/, www.manxradio.com/on-air/jamys-jeheiney/, <https://www.manxradio.com/on-air/goll-as-qaccan/goll-as-qaccan/>, www.manxradio.com/on-air/traa-dy-liooar/

⁶ Examples: www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQIDyp6dXjw, www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5ltVBc0Omk, www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzEOWy7IAAk

⁷ Example: www.learnmanx.com/listings_group_Chris%20Lewin%20.html

⁸ www.learnmanx.com/media/PDFs/1985-SeleCte%20Rpt%20on%20Manx%20Gaelic.pdf

⁹ www.learnmanx.com/media/PDFs/1985-SeleCte%20Rpt%20on%20Manx%20Gaelic.pdf

¹⁰ See 3.23(5) and 6.1(2): <http://www.tynwald.org.im/business/sto/Documents/20180606-PP2018-0090TSO.pdf>

d. provide the basic and further training of the teachers teaching Manx Gaelic in the Isle of Man.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

53. The Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum delivers training for teachers, for example, through the introduction of Manx language and teaching of Manx songs. Development officers at Culture Vannin support this initiative¹¹.

54. The Authorities are devising an action plan for the development of a focused teacher-training package as part of the Manx Language Strategy, 2021-2026.

e. Promote study and research on Manx Gaelic at universities or equivalent institutions.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

55. The following are active in Manx language research, with many conducting fieldwork in the Isle of Man:

BRODERICK, George (Professor, Mannheim University)¹²

LEWIN, Christopher¹³

MACKIE, Catriona (Lecturer, University College Isle of Man, resident in IOM)¹⁴

HIFEARNAIN, Tadhg (Senior Lecturer, NUI Galway).¹⁵

MUIRCHEARTAIGH, Peadar (Lecturer, University of Aberystwyth)¹⁶

SALLABANK, Julia (Reader, SOAS, University of London)¹⁷

WHEELER, Max (Professor Emeritus, University of Sussex, resident in IOM)¹⁸

WILSON, Gary (Professor, University of Northern British Columbia)¹⁹

For reference, further research by independent scholars is also available²⁰.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/departments/education-sport-and-culture/>

¹² <http://www.george-broderick.de/>

¹³ <https://independent.academia.edu/Gillechr%C3%ACostMacGillE%C3%B2in>

¹⁴ <http://catrionamackie.net/research/>

¹⁵ <http://nuigalway.academia.edu/Tadhg%C3%93hfearn%C3%A1in>

¹⁶ <http://dias.academia.edu/Peadar%C3%93Muircheartaigh>

¹⁷ <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/cymraeg/staff-profiles/listing/profile/peo5/>

¹⁸ <https://www.soas.ac.uk/staff/staff37651.php>

¹⁹ <http://sussex.academia.edu/MaxWheeler>

¹⁹ <https://www.unbc.ca/people/wilson-dr-gary-n>

²⁰ <https://sites.google.com/view/gailck-hasht/duillag-hoshee>

56. In addition, the following universities offer modules on the Isle of Man or Manx:

University of Edinburgh's 'Isle of Man: Language, Culture, and History' Year 3 module taught by Dr Anja Gunderloch²¹. Culture Vannin is currently exploring the possibility of developing a dissertation prize at undergraduate or postgraduate level.

3. Welsh

Recommendations by the Committee of Experts on how to improve the protection and promotion of Welsh in the United Kingdom

a. Take further steps to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the use of Welsh.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

57. Local health boards and health trusts must comply with Welsh Language Standards, as prepared under the Welsh Language Standards (No. 7) Regulations (2018). The Welsh Language Commissioner imposes these standards on health bodies.

58. The Commissioner also ensures compliance with these legal duties and investigates complaints into non-compliance. If services provided in hospitals or care homes are provided by a body that comes under Standards (such as the local health board), then they must comply with the relevant Welsh Language Standards. These cover services such as correspondence, telephone calls, signage, and meetings. There are also specific Standards relating to services provided to in-patients in hospitals, which requires bodies to ask patients whether they would prefer to use Welsh.

59. Standards also place duties on bodies regarding their internal use of Welsh, requiring them to provide Welsh language services to staff members. Health bodies must also prepare and publish a five-year plan on how to increase their ability to carry out clinical consultations in Welsh.

Welsh Language Standards in the Health Sector

60. Welsh Language Standards for the health sector came into force on 30 May 2019. As well as dealing with services provided by health organisations to the public, there is also a Standard requiring National Health Service (NHS) bodies to publish a five-year plan setting out the extent to which they are able to carry out clinical consultations in Welsh and the actions they intend to take to increase their ability to do so. Although this is a medium-term target, it provides impetus for the NHS to improve the Welsh language clinical services provided to their patients and service users.

²¹ <https://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/anja-gunderloch>

61. To coincide with the introduction of the Welsh Language Standards for the health sector, the Welsh Government has agreed with the representative bodies to include Welsh language duties in the contracts for independent primary care contractors. These also came into force on 30 May 2019. These relate to the relevant Welsh Language Standards for health boards and focus on promotion of services, developing Welsh language skills, and recording the “Active Offer” (see below). A survey, completed during the summer of 2019, will provide a baseline for a future assessment during the summer of 2021.

More than Just Words (Mwy na geiriau)²²

62. The Welsh Government recognises that receiving services through the medium of Welsh is a key component of care, especially when discussing sensitive and emotional concerns. The use of the Welsh language in health and social care is not just a matter of choice but often also be a matter of need. The focus of More than Just Words, the Welsh Government’s strategic framework to strengthen Welsh language provision in health and social care, is providing care that meets the needs of individuals. One of the key components of More than Just Words means that bodies should ask whether individuals wish or need to receive services in Welsh (the Active Offer). Communicating the Active Offer is still work in progress. However, there is a greater understanding of the Active Offer, with more organisations promoting this service.

63. Most organisations provide Welsh language and awareness training to staff, and an element of this training usually includes a focus on the Active Offer. One health board reported that the information provided about More Than Just Words and the Active Offer are the most positively received aspects of these awareness sessions.

64. Another health board has carried out ward audits to ensure ward managers and staff comply with Welsh Language Standards. The team use this opportunity to advise staff of the need to offer Welsh language services as part of their Active Offer. Welsh speaking staff are also encouraged to enter their contact information on a dedicated SharePoint area to enable staff to locate a Welsh speaker to support patients who require the Active Offer.

65. The More Than Just Words Action Plan includes an enhanced assessment of Welsh language services within the regulatory system for healthcare. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW), after reporting on the Active Offer and the experience of Welsh service users, created a More than Just Words inspection and guidance document. At each inspection of a regulated service, an inspector will judge, on the evidence available, whether the service provides an Active Offer of the Welsh language. Both inspecting bodies have provided updates on this work to the Welsh Language in Health and Social Care Partnership Board.

²² <https://gov.wales/welsh-language-healthcare-more-just-words-action-plan-2019-2020>

Evaluation of More Than Just Words

66. The Welsh Government has commissioned an evaluation of More than Just Words to assess progress and effectiveness of the Active Offer, and delivery of Welsh language services in health and care.
67. The evaluation work was paused between April and July this year because of COVID-19 but has now resumed with the final evaluation report expected in early 2021. The final report will take into account the impact of COVID-19 on Welsh language services and the priorities for Welsh provision post-COVID.
68. This evaluation will bring additional rigour to the process and add to the evidence base with an independent and robust review on what the key enablers and barriers are, what works, and where future resources need to be targeted and prioritised.

Mental Health

69. The Welsh Government has reviewed the 'Together for Mental Health' strategy to ensure actions respond to any new challenges because of COVID-19²³. The Welsh Government has asked health boards and local authorities to examine the impact of COVID-19 on Welsh language provision including delivery of the Active Offer.
70. The Welsh Government Dementia Action Plan for Wales (2018-2022) includes an action to undertake work on Welsh medium clinical assessments²⁴. Work is progressing on commissioning a scoping study for this initiative.

Workforce Strategy for Health and Social Care

71. In its commitment to 'a Healthier Wales: our Plan for Health and Social Care'²⁵, the Welsh Government commissioned Social Care Wales alongside Health Education and Improvement Wales to develop a long-term high-level workforce strategy in partnership with the NHS and local government. Additional partners also include the voluntary and independent sectors, as well as regulators, professional bodies, and education providers.

²³ https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-10/review-of-the-together-for-mental-health-delivery-plan-20192022-in-response-to-covid-19_0.pdf

²⁴ <https://gov.wales/dementia-action-plan-2018-2022>

²⁵ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-10/a-healthier-wales-action-plan.pdf>

72. Health Education and Improvement Wales, alongside Social Care Wales jointly launched the Strategy²⁶, of which the Welsh language is a key priority, on 22 October 2020. It also takes into consideration the impact of COVID-19. The strategy will, over time, detail a series of implementation plans on the focussed actions needed to deliver their vision for the workforce of the future.

b. Continue to provide technical and vocational education in Welsh, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Welsh or teaching of Welsh as an integral part of the curriculum at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

73. The Minister for Education has instructed the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol²⁷ (the lead body responsible for planning and supporting Welsh-medium-higher education provisions, in partnership with Welsh universities) to develop Welsh-medium and bilingual vocational provision.

74. In December 2018, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol published its robust Further Education and Apprenticeships Welsh-Medium Action Plan²⁸. Launched by the Minister for Education in January 2019, the plan sets out a programme for the short, medium, and long term in the post-16 vocational sector in six key areas:

- Learner Experience
- Staffing Capacity
- Provision
- Resources
- Assessment and Qualifications
- Employer Engagement.

75. The 'Skills Development Model' underpins this programme, which ensures that interventions target learners to increase awareness, understanding, confidence, and fluency of the Welsh language. Work has already commenced to upskill staff by planning the curriculum and developing resources for key priority areas where bilingual skills are required in the workplace.

76. The main priority areas are health and social care, childcare, and public services. Colleges implement specific interventions to provide a strategic

²⁶ <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/workforce-strategy-for-health-and-social-care1/>

²⁷ <https://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/>

²⁸ <https://gov.wales/welsh-medium-education-further-education-and-apprenticeships>

framework to increase capability of institutions to deliver through the medium of Welsh. These areas are a priority, as they are key in the provision of services to the public through the medium of Welsh.

77. Qualifications Wales, the regulatory body for qualifications in Wales, has engaged with two awarding bodies to develop new bilingual qualifications in health and social care and childcare for Wales; these commenced in September 2019 with rollout continuing in September 2020.
78. Mudiad Meithrin, a body specialising in Welsh-medium early years provision, has joined forces with the Urdd, the main Welsh-medium apprenticeship provider, to deliver childcare apprenticeships through the medium of Welsh to create the bilingual workforce required to strengthen early years provision.

Curriculum

79. The study of Welsh in the National Curriculum for Wales is compulsory for all pupils until the end of Key Stage 4 (age 16), and this remains the case in the new Curriculum for Wales guidance framework published on 28 January 2020²⁹. This is fully appropriate to the language's legal status as an official language of Wales.
80. Schools design their own curriculum within the national framework guidance. All schools will be required to design a curriculum that enables all learners to make continuous improvement in Welsh from age 3 to 16. The new curriculum is a key part of work towards the goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

c. Ensure that local branches of the national local authorities use Welsh.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

81. All 22 local authorities in Wales are under legal duties to use Welsh through compliance with Welsh Language Standards. The Welsh Language Commissioner imposes the Standards (2015) applicable to local authorities. The Commissioner also monitors compliance with Standards and investigates any complaints regarding non-compliance.
82. These legal duties cover services provided to the public such as correspondence, signage, telephone calls, meetings, websites, and publications; these also include providing key documents in Welsh and promoting the use of Welsh internally. Standards also require authorities to consider the Welsh language in workforce planning, and when adopting new policies. Standards imposed on local authorities also require them to adopt a strategy noting how they will promote the use of Welsh. In exercising their

²⁹ <https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales>

duties under Standards, local authorities must not treat Welsh less favourably than English, and must promote and facilitate the use of Welsh.

83. Prior to having to comply with Standards, local authorities were acting in accordance with Welsh Language Schemes, which were prepared under the 1993 Welsh Language Act. However, Standards are legal duties that have a far stronger enforcement regime. In addition, Standards cover areas which were not always included in Welsh language Schemes – such as the internal use of Welsh within the organisation. Standards also establish a clear framework for bodies to assess the impact of their policies on the Welsh language.

Progress made against Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers³⁰

84. A full progress update since the Committee of Experts' site visit to the United Kingdom in May 2018 is available in the Welsh Government 2018-19³¹ and 2019-20³² annual reports.

85. As background, in 2017, the then Minister for Welsh Language published a Welsh language strategy (Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers) with an accompanying Work Programme for 2017-2021. The strategy has caught the imagination of the public – there is a very clear vision that has been widely embraced in Wales and beyond. **The strategy³³ notes the steps that must be taken to achieve the two headline targets by 2050, under three themes:**

- Reach 1 million Welsh speakers³⁴;
- Double the daily use of Welsh³⁵;
- Creating favourable conditions in infrastructure and context.

Theme 1: Increasing the number of Welsh speakers

86. The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language will be publishing a policy on the interfamilial transmission and use of the Welsh language in the New Year following a formal consultation process. This policy will inform a ten-year work programme, which projects and methodology focussing on:

- Inspiring children and young people to speak Welsh to their children in the future;

³⁰ <https://gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy>

³¹ <https://gov.wales/welsh-language-strategy-annual-report-2018-2019>

³² <https://gov.wales/welsh-language-strategy-annual-report-2019-2020>

³³ <https://gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy>

³⁴ In the 2011 Census, 562,000 people said they could speak Welsh.

³⁵ The target is: the percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily, and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, to increase from 10% (in 2013-15) to 20% by 2050.

- Reigniting the Welsh language skills of those who may not have used Welsh since their school days, or who have lost confidence in their language skills, to speak Welsh with their own children;
- Supporting and encouraging use of Welsh within families where not everybody speaks Welsh;
- Supporting Welsh-speaking families to speak Welsh with their children.

87. In the 2011 Census, 562,000 people said they could speak Welsh.

88. The target is to increase the percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily, and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, from 10% (in 2013-15) to 20% by 2050.

89. The aim is to expand Welsh-medium provision in the early years as an access point to Welsh-medium education. The Welsh Government is aiming establish 40 new Welsh-medium nursery groups by 2021, and an additional 150 by 2027-28.

90. The Welsh Government has set up a specific programme with Mudiad Meithrin³⁶ focussing on establishing new Welsh-medium early years provisions in areas of Wales where there is a lack of such services. Through this work, 21 new Cylchoedd Meithrin (Welsh-medium nursery groups) and 21 new Cylchoedd Ti a Fi (Welsh-medium parent and toddler groups) have been established since 2018, meaning that hundreds more children are able to take the first step to Welsh-medium education each year.

91. According to data gathered by Mudiad Meithrin, nearly 90% of children leaving Cylchoedd Meithrin in 2018-19 transferred to Welsh-medium education – the highest proportion since recording began.

92. Through the Welsh Government's work with Mudiad Meithrin, the capacity of the sector to provide Welsh-medium childcare has been developed by:

- Offering training to over 1,600 practitioners and volunteers through the Continuous Professional Development programme, 'Academi';
- Extending the reach of the 'Croesi'r Bont' training programme, which focuses on language acquisition and immersion, and equipping practitioners with specialist skills for use with children from non-Welsh-speaking homes.

93. The Welsh Government's focus on expanding the provision of Welsh-medium and bilingual education, alongside how Welsh is delivered in English-medium schools has included:

- Securing £46m through the Welsh-medium and Childcare capital grant, leading to 46 projects across 20 local authorities. This will create 2,818 new

³⁶ <https://www.meithrin.cymru/home/>

places in Welsh-medium schools and childcare settings;

- Since the introduction of Cymraeg 2050, a gear change to increase the number of learners in Welsh-medium education, the early indications are positive. Over the past eight years, there has been a substantial increase in number of seven-year-old learners learning Welsh as a first language;
- New regulations for Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) were made in January 2020 to set out new, more ambitious targets for local authorities to increase the number of places available in Welsh-medium schools;
- The new WESPs will also give prominence to immersion provision – which allows learners educated through the medium of English to transfer to Welsh-medium education during their school career;
- The Welsh Government will consult on new non-statutory arrangements for designating schools according to their Welsh-medium provision in December 2020, so that schools are able to respond to the new curriculum.

94. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's remit was extended in 2018 to include post-16 education and training, and a range of interventions have been implemented, including:

- Establishing six strategic projects in six further education institutions in the priority areas of health and social care, childcare, and public services (as above);
- The Urdd provides full Welsh-medium apprenticeships in sport and youth leadership with 102 frameworks completed in a three-year period up to March 2019. It is now expanding into childcare apprenticeships;
- Data shows a steady increase in Welsh learning activities, with 2% increase in further education in 2018/19 and 2.3% in the apprenticeship sector;
- In higher education, since the establishment of Coleg in 2011, 26 of the main subject areas are available through the medium of Welsh, an increase of 14 areas in an eight-year period;
- Notable achievements have taken place in medicine in Cardiff University and Swansea University, where 75 students studied at least 40 credits in Welsh. For the first time, in 2019/20, over 100 individuals studied part of their business course in Welsh.

95. The Welsh Government funds the National Centre for Learning Welsh³⁷ to encourage new speakers. The Centre held 20,330 activities for 13,260 individual learners in 2018/19. In addition to this:

³⁷ <https://learnwelsh.cymru/about-us/the-national-centre-for-learning-welsh/>

- In 2018-2019, there were 13,260 learners, an increase from 5% in 2017-2018³⁸, where there were 12,680 unique learners;
- In 2018-2019, learners attended 20,330 learning activities, an increase of 4% when compared to 2017-2018³⁹.

96. The Welsh Government continues to fund various schemes and projects, such as Iaith Athrawon Fory⁴⁰, to attract more people to choose teaching as a career, and upskill the Welsh language skills of those already in the sector (e.g. the Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme⁴¹). This is to ensure that there is sufficient number of teachers who can teach Welsh, or through Welsh-medium.

97. **Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes** from September 2019 deliver a minimum of 25 hours Welsh tuition to all student teachers as part of the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), against a national Welsh language skills framework. The language skills framework also forms the basis of career-long language development for all practitioners, in line with the Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership.

98. In 2018, the Welsh Government established a **Bilingual Educational Resources Stakeholders Group** to consider creating a national infrastructure for providing educational resources. Welsh language educational resources will be central to the new infrastructure, which will support the new curriculum for Wales.

Theme 2: Increasing the use of Welsh

99. The Welsh Government has published a strategy entitled Cymraeg. Mae'n perthyn i ni i gyd (Cymraeg. It belongs to us all). The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language hopes that the strategy will influence the use of Welsh across the Welsh public sector, and potentially beyond.

100. Welsh Language Standards now apply to over 120 organisations. As a next step, the Welsh Government plans to introduce standards for health care regulators.

101. Work Welsh offers training and support to help workplaces increase their daily use of the language and improve the services they provide. During 2019-20, over 1,600 employers registered for Work Welsh courses.

102. Regarding plans to make it easier for the voluntary and business sectors to use Welsh, the Welsh Government made the 'Helo Blod' service available in March this year. Commonly referred to as the 'One Stop Shop' for the Welsh

³⁸ <https://learnwelsh.cymru/about-us/statistics-2017-18/>

³⁹ <https://learnwelsh.cymru/about-us/statistics-2017-18/>

⁴⁰ <https://gov.wales/iaith-athrawon-yfory-incentive-scheme-2020-2021-academic-year>

⁴¹ <https://hwb.gov.wales/professional-development/welsh-language-practitioner-training>

language, this service already making a difference to these sectors.

103. The first cohort of this strategy is currently taking a pilot course: 'Leading in a Bilingual Country'⁴², developed with Academi Wales, in order to embed the spirit of Cymraeg 2050 into organisations around Wales.

104. The Welsh Government grant funds many external partners to promote the language at a community and national level, for example, The Urdd⁴³, which is the leading youth organisation in Wales:

- Has over 56,000 members.
- 10,000 volunteers are active Wales wide;
- Approximately 45,500 children and young people benefit from residential experiences at one of the Urdd's camps annually;
- In 2019, 100,000 young people visited the Eisteddfod and around 80,000 took part in competitions;
- It endeavours to reach children and young people of all backgrounds and therefore has developed a project to offer places at residential camps to disadvantaged children; Eisteddfod has offered 200 places to date.

105. The Eisteddfod⁴⁴ is a two-year community project. On average, it holds 250-350 community events during this period. These provide opportunities for local income generation. The festival also provides a platform to test new business ideas, many of which continue beyond the festival. The National Eisteddfod⁴⁵ has provided many opportunities to increase use of Welsh:

- Economic impact assessments demonstrate that the Eisteddfod has a positive economic value of between £17-£18m each year;
- In 2019, spent £2,741,330 on small businesses linked to the Eisteddfod;
- In 2019, over 175,000 people visited the Eisteddfod Maes during the week-long festival;
- Welsh Government investment in the Eisteddfod also secures a platform to display new art, literature, and new performers.

⁴² <http://academiwales.gov.wales/news/articles/5f5847b2-7c23-4013-8657-d1162a60caa2>

⁴³ <https://www.urdd.cymru/en/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.urdd.cymru/en/eisteddfod/>

⁴⁵ <https://eisteddfod.wales/>

106. In 2019, the Mentrau Iaith⁴⁶ (Welsh language initiative) provided 9,229 opportunities to use the Welsh language and 231,366 attended these events.

107. The Mentrau Iaith hold music festivals in order to attract new audiences and normalise language use outside of the classroom:

- The Welsh Government partly funds many of the larger festivals (Tafwyl attracted 38,000 visitors in 2019) that have become an important part of the cultural calendar;
- In 2019, the Welsh Government also provided funding for 11 new and smaller festivals in order to introduce the language and culture to new audiences.

108. It is estimated that the 52-papurau bro (local community newspapers) publish 43,000 editions each month, with most papers publishing between 500 and 1,000 copies. On the assumption that two people read each paper, the papers reach 139,000 readers.

109. The National Centre for Learning Welsh runs the 'Siarad' scheme, which pairs new speakers with confident speakers so that they interact in Welsh outside of the classroom and in the community. Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Language Music Day) has established itself as a day to celebrate the vibrancy of Welsh language music. It raises awareness of the language and Welsh culture.

Theme 3: Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context

110. As part of the Welsh Language Technology Action Plan (2018), The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language made Cysgliad (a spellchecker, grammar checker, and series of dictionaries) available free of charge for individuals, schools and small organisations. So far, users have downloaded this service 3,600 times.

111. A strong linguistic infrastructure (dictionaries, terminology, corpus resources, and standardisation mechanisms) is essential to make it easier for everyone to use Welsh – including schoolchildren, employees or new speakers. The Welsh Government is developing a policy for this area of work, for which a draft copy will be published for consultation early in 2021.

112. The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language has established an Economy and Language Round Table to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing rural Welsh-speaking communities in Wales.

113. The ARFOR⁴⁷ programme was established in April 2019 to provide the basis for a range of innovative projects in the counties of Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire, and Anglesey. The programme places emphasis on

⁴⁶ <https://www.mentrauiaith.cymru/?lang=en>

⁴⁷ <https://www.rhaglenarfor.cymru/index.en.html>

developing economic infrastructure in order to benefit the Welsh language.

114. The Welsh Government's aim is to mainstream Cymraeg 2050 into all Welsh Government portfolio areas. One such example is the Digital Strategy, which promises: "People will be able to access high quality services in Welsh and English because they are designed bilingually from the outset." This strategy⁴⁸ is currently welcoming contributions and input from people in Wales.

115. Beyond this, in the wider public sector in Wales, the Centre for Digital Public Services Standards⁴⁹ promote the Welsh language by stating that: "Services in Wales should meet the needs of people who use the Welsh language in their everyday lives. Teams should design and build services that promote and facilitate the Welsh language, and treat users who speak it equally with those who prefer English."

116. The 2019 UNESCO International Year of Indigenous Languages was a great opportunity to raise Wales' profile internationally as a bilingual country and as one of the leading countries in terms of linguistic regeneration. The Welsh Government hosted various events, for example, the 'Our Voice in the World'⁵⁰ festival in Aberystwyth with a series of talks, discussion panels and performances to celebrate Welsh as a vibrant and living language. The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language looks forward to taking part in UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages, which will begin in 2022.

117. In August 2019, The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language announced Prosiect 2050. This is a new multi-disciplinary language-planning unit working with partners across Wales and beyond, to:

- Co-ordinate the route towards a million speakers, from the early years, through Welsh-medium statutory education provision, to post-compulsory education to Welsh for adults;
- Double the use of Welsh by creating new initiatives, and evaluating current initiatives;
- Support policy areas across the Welsh Government to contribute to the work of supporting Welsh-speaking communities and to increase the use of Welsh.

118. PYST, Wales' music distribution platform, has been funded to create the AM digital platform. It hosts channels and live streams events such as the National Eisteddfod. During the first six months, AM has achieved 200 channels, 60,000 users, 11,000 regular monthly users, 9,500 app downloads, and 330,000 views.

⁴⁸ <https://digitalanddata.blog.gov.wales/2020/12/03/digital-strategy-for-wales-mission-1-digital-services/>

⁴⁹ <https://cdps.medium.com/digital-service-standards-for-wales-db793fff5509>

⁵⁰ <https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/gwyl-ein-llais-yn-y-byd/>

The impact and response to COVID-19 on the Welsh language

119. COVID-19 has posed many challenges to the delivery of Cymraeg 2050.

However, with each challenge comes an exciting opportunity: a chance to look at things in a different way and create new communities where people can come together virtually to learn and use Welsh. In March, initial work concentrated on:

- Supporting the short-term resilience of partner Welsh language organisations;
- Ensuring that children in Welsh-medium education and their parents / carers received support and reassurance about the children's Welsh language skills (a) during lockdown and (b) in the school reopening process.
- Ensuring a renewed online approach to adult Welsh language learning.

120. Examples of the work the Welsh Government has undertaken with its partner organisations during the pandemic include:

- Earlier this year, The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language tasked the Welsh Language Partnership Council⁵¹ to establish three sub-groups to consider aspects of Cymraeg 2050 in more depth. As part of their work, the Council is considering the effect of COVID-19 as follows:
 - Subgroup 1: Education: potential effect of reduced contact in educational settings on linguistic development / support for parents in non-Welsh speaking households / immersion education.
 - Subgroup 2: Increasing community language use to see which opportunities exist, where the gaps are, and how the pandemic has affected them. The report's findings were published on 10 December.
 - Subgroup 3: Economy and language will focus on mainstreaming Welsh within economic programmes, and will provide a better understanding of how various economic interventions could affect the vibrancy of the Welsh language.

121. The Welsh Government has invested over £3.1m in the Urdd in order to support the organisation to develop and adapt interventions in response to the pandemic, in the absence of it being able to create income from its residential centres. Despite significant uncertainties, the Urdd has continued to deliver and innovate in exceptionally difficult circumstances. For example:

- It delivered its annual Peace and Goodwill Message digitally. The message reached 37 million people.

⁵¹ <https://gov.wales/welsh-language-partnership-council>

- It held Eisteddfod T in place of Eisteddfod. Over 6,000 took part in various competitions. Many of them had never taken part before.
- The Urdd has recently launched an exciting initiative called Cefn Llwyfan ('Backstage') which is a mentoring programme for young people aspiring for jobs in the performing arts. The initiative's focus is on disabled young learners and those from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not be able to access such support.

122. The Welsh Government has allocated an additional £0.5m to the National Eisteddfod to provide financial support with the postponement of the 2020 Eisteddfod. Postponing the Eisteddfod led to the successful hosting of the first ever Eisteddfod AmGen. The event secured 4 million impressions on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and over a million views.

123. The National Centre for Learning Welsh has adapted swiftly despite the fact that all face-to-face learning has stopped:

- Over 1,300 new learners are now following courses in 89 virtual classes.
- Since 16 March, there have been over 17,000 enrolments on the Centre's online taster courses by 8,000 individuals. This is more than the previous three years together and shows that interest is growing apace.
- The Centre has launched weekly lessons on Facebook in partnership with Welsh for Kids, targeted specifically at parents / carers of small children.

124. The Federation of Young Farmers and Merched y Wawr have been supporting vulnerable people in their communities by offering practical support, delivering meals and operating a phone line called "Ffoniwch Ffrind" (Phone a Friend).

125. Tafwyl is Cardiff's annual celebration of Welsh arts and culture. This year, the festival was held online and was watched by a global audience of more than 8,000, with people tuning in from a number of countries, including the USA, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, and France.

126. Nationally, lockdown provided a period of reflection with regard to Welsh-medium education, reminding people of the role that parents play in supporting children's education. The need for a more tailored package of support for parents of children in Welsh-medium education who do not speak Welsh has become clear. The Welsh Government has started a reassurance campaign to communicate regularly with parents regarding bilingualism. The 'Summer Full of Welsh'⁵² campaign was a first step in this process.

127. As the Minister responsible for Welsh language, The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language is delighted by the range and variety

⁵² <https://gov.wales/cymraeg-for-kids/summer-full-of-welsh>

of work taking place, not only within Government, but also by partners, groups and individuals across the whole of Wales.

128. Although the context of this work has changed dramatically since the launch of Cymraeg 2050 in the summer of 2017, strategic priorities have remained the same. The hard work already undertaken and the new opportunities apparent during the past few months are a strong foundation to continue the vision of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

4. Scots

Recommendations for immediate action

a. Provide forms and means for the teaching and study of Scots at all appropriate stages.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

129. Scots language learning is not compulsory, but there are however opportunities for the teaching of Scots. The Scots Language Awards, developed in 2014, enable candidates to study the history and development of the Scots language, and develop their ability to understand and communicate in Scots. The awards are available at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels 3-6, consisting of two mandatory units: History and Development of Scots, and Understanding and Communicating in Scots. The Award at SCQF level 6 also attracts 14 UCAS points upon completion.
130. Creative writing in Scots is also encouraged and supported within the Scottish Qualifications Authority's (SQA) National Qualifications for English⁵³.
131. The Scottish Studies Awards⁵⁴, developed in 2012, benefit from a broad and flexible framework, enabling candidates to develop their knowledge and understanding of Scotland. The awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6, consisting of four units, and at SCQF level 6 attracts 21 UCAS points upon completion.
132. SQA delivered an Understanding Standards event for both awards in September 2019, with opportunities to review candidate evidence and discuss national standards in workshops with Qualifications Managers and External Verifier teams. Guest speakers from Education Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, and Banff Academy highlighted the wealth of nationally available resources and range of possible contexts of delivery for the awards.
133. The uptake of the awards remains healthy and SQA is very proud to be a part of successful national awareness raising and recognition of Scots as a language in its own right with equal status to Gaelic, English and British Sign Language (BSL). SQA is committed to ensuring that the awards are supported on an ongoing basis by its dedicated qualifications teams, via national events, links with academic institutions, quality assurance processes, and national network activity.
134. In addition, the Scottish Government supports a number of Scots bodies in language learning, including the Association of Scottish Language Studies, Scots Language Dictionaries, and Scots Hoose.

⁵³ More information about the Awards, including Case Studies, <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70056.html>

⁵⁴ More information about the Awards, including Case Studies, is available via this link: <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64329.html>

135. The Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS) provides Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and support materials on Scottish literature and languages for teachers and pupils, publishes Scottish literature which has been neglected or warrants fresh presentation to a modern audience, and produces a series of school-college level study guides and resources.
136. The Scots Language Dictionaries have developed an app to support learning and teachers.
137. The Scots Hoose's Schools Outreach Programme running Scots language workshops in deprived areas helps to raise attainment and confidence in learning. This programme has expanded from North East and Fife to cover most of Scotland.
138. In addition, Scots Hoose produces resources for primary and secondary pupils, available for free on the Scots Hoose website and is currently developing early years resources
139. In addition, Scots Hoose has entered discussions with eSgoil to use their platform for programme delivery across Scotland. This will start as a pilot in East Ayrshire in 2020.

Further recommendations

- b. Take steps to ensure the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups in the State using Scots and on the establishment of cultural relations with other linguistic groups.**

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

140. Though these linguistic groups have their own particular needs, they are encouraged to learn from others. Colleagues in both groups have been invited to attend a number of conferences/seminars organised by the British Irish Council IML work stream to ensure sharing of good practice. This has resulted in a number of ongoing areas of interest including the work between Ulster Scots Agency and the Scottish Qualifications Agency around awards. In addition, Scots Radio has been working with MGAlba (Gaelic Media Service) on their own version of FilmG.

c. Take steps to promote transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for the benefit of Scots.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

141. As above.

d. Promote mutual understanding between all linguistic groups of the country; promote the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Scots among the objectives of education and training; encourage the mass media to include respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to Scots among their objectives; take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by groups using Scots; establish a body for advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to Scots.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

142. There is a number of media outlets promoting and encouraging the use of the Scots language, in the written press, online blogs/websites and traditional TV. The BBC started the BBC Scotland channel on 24 February 2019. It delivers an array of programming which has the Scots language at its heart.

143. In addition, the Scottish Government has taken on core funding of Scots Radio. This online programme has received growing interest particularly over lockdown and Scots Radio will continue to explore new programming ideas in the coming months.

e. Provide facilities enabling non-speakers of Scots to learn the language.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

144. There is a number of providers of language learning, however. The Scottish Government supports the Scots Language Centre, which offers learning advice and support online to those interested in progressing language learning.

145. The Scots Language Dictionaries app is under consideration for further development to help adult learning. This may lead on to a further app for Polish speakers to engage and learn Scots.

5. Scottish Gaelic

Recommendations for immediate action

- a. Take further measures to make pre-school, primary and secondary education available in Scottish Gaelic

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

146. Gaelic Education in Scotland (GME) is now an established sector in Scottish education. The aim is for young people to operate confidently and fluently in two languages as they progress from early years, through primary education and into secondary education.
147. GME from nursery to the end of primary school is a form of immersion education. With this form of education, Gaelic is the sole language of learning, teaching and assessment in the first three years of primary school. From P4 to P7, immersion education will continue, but at this stage, GME will introduce English. From P4 onwards, following the introduction of English, Gaelic should remain the predominant language of the classroom. With the best Gaelic medium and immersion practice, the purpose is to ensure that children achieve equal fluency and literacy in both Gaelic and English, while reaching expected attainment levels in all other areas of the curriculum through the medium of Gaelic.
148. GME is delivered to children and young people who come from families where Gaelic is spoken, as well as from families with little or no background in Gaelic. Gaelic medium primary education (GMPE) is currently available in a number of education authority areas across Scotland. In some instances, children from adjacent education authorities have access to GMPE because of agreements between the education authorities.
149. There is also a growing number of Gaelic medium schools in Scotland and dual stream primary schools (Gaelic and English) where GME is in the majority. Early learning and childcare is also offered through the medium of Gaelic, both statutory and non-statutory, across Scotland.
150. Gaelic medium secondary education (GMSE) is also available in a number of secondary schools in Scotland. In these schools, Gaelic is typically offered as a subject, with some schools delivering a further proportion of the curriculum through the medium of Gaelic. Gaelic learner education (GLE) is distinct from GME in that it is delivered to those who are in English medium education as an additional language.
151. There has been encouraging growth in recent years in GLE, particularly at primary school level where it provides young people with an introduction to Gaelic language and culture. Educational agencies and public bodies in Scotland also have a vital role to play in supporting and developing Gaelic education in Scotland.

eSgoil

152. The eSgoil initiative, a teaching hub based in the Outer Hebrides, teaches subjects through the medium of Gaelic, across Scotland via video technology, allowing equity of access to subjects for students in the Outer Hebrides and the expansion of Gaelic teaching provision across Scotland. This scheme has now been adapted in Ceredigion, Wales, following engagement between Welsh and Scottish Governments.

SpeakGaelic

153. The Scottish Government have supported MGAlba (Gaelic Media Service) with the development work on a new project SpeakGaelic. This will see SpeakGaelic aim to enable at least 100,000 people in Scotland to hold a conversation in Gaelic, and motivate existing speakers to use and improve their Gaelic. This will be supported by:

- A Scotland-wide campaign and “programme” - in four seasons of 13 modules – delivered locally and nationally;
- Classrooms, tutors and learning groups, alongside promotion via TV, radio, online, podcasts, and social media;
- Resources and support for new learning champions in workplaces, communities, and homes;
- Ensuring that Gaelic is spoken and heard at all levels of competence – from learner to fluent;
- Encouraging media, education, local authorities and public bodies to work in partnership.

b. Continue taking measures to strengthen Scottish Gaelic education, especially through the training of teachers and the production of teaching and learning materials.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

154. Education Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Scottish College for Educational Leadership (SCEL) and teacher education institutions make an essential contribution to the promotion, support, and growth of Gaelic education in Scotland. Along with these bodies, Stòrlann Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig supports pupils, teachers, and parents through its role in providing resources for Gaelic education.

155. The Faster Rate of Progress for Gaelic initiative has a particular work stream to consider teacher training, recruitment, and retention, and is led by the education bodies GTCS and the SFC. These bodies have been developing a range of support for teachers, including:

- The production of a guidance booklet entitled 'So you want to teach in Gaelic', in joint collaboration with Bord na Gaidhlig;
- Survey of all registered teachers to inform levels of participation and desire for additional training;
- More articles related to Gaelic and Gaelic-medium education (GME) in the Teaching Scotland magazine;
- Encouraging teacher, pupil, parent, and academic voice.
- Facilitating staff member learning of Gaelic through e-Sgoil and Duolingo and promoting that learning journey as a registered teacher;
- Increased engagement with partner organisations such as Bord na Gaidhlig, Comann nam Parant, SQA, Stòrlann, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) to encourage teacher recruitment and retention;
- Successful launch of Immersion Year at the University of Glasgow;
- Engagement with universities on maximising impact from current provision – encouraging recruitment and modifying language content for teacher education programmes.
- Designed a survey to develop language standards for teacher education for Gaelic Medium Education (GME). The survey focuses on potential for enhancing and expanding delivery methods for GME, including digital provision.
- Issued strategic funding to support financial viability of Gaelic small cohorts in colleges, including advance commitments for 2020-21, taking impacts of COVID into account.
- Worked with colleges to support multi-college Gaelic immersion opportunity for college students, delivered in the CNES.

Stòrlann: co-ordination of the production and distribution of curriculum resources for Gaelic education.

156. Stòrlann continues to support teachers, parents and young people. The Scottish Executive established Stòrlann in 1999 to co-ordinate the production and distribution of curriculum resources for Gaelic education.

157. Under Stòrlann’s publication programme, resources are distributed free of charge to nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools and lifelong learning groups every year. Teaching staff and learners through strategic planning set priorities, for local authorities and lifelong learning organisations to implement.

158. A small selection of Stòrlann’s resources are available for purchase by the general public⁵⁵, and a range of free interactive resources for families can also be found on the organisation’s website⁵⁶, including access to support with homework and other issues relating to Gaelic education.

Further recommendations

c. Make technical and vocational education in Scottish Gaelic, a substantial part of technical and vocational education in Scottish Gaelic or teaching of Scottish Gaelic as an integral part of the curriculum available at least to those pupils who so wish in a number considered sufficient.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

159. Sabhal Mor Ostaig (SMO), the Gaelic College, has worked with partners, including the Scottish Government, to design vocational courses. The Scottish Government expanded Foundation Apprenticeships (FA) in 2019-2020 as commitment to providing post-16 Gaelic medium pathways to support workforce planning. In 2020-21 SMO is providing the FA in Social Services: Children and Young People (Preantasachd Bhun-ìre Clann is Òigridh) for the third consecutive year, and the FA course in Digital and Creative Media (Preantasachd Bhun-ìre sna Meadhanan Digiteach is Cruthachail) for the second year.

160. These continue to be offered as either 1- or 2-year programmes for young people in S5 and S6, combining college-based learning with work placements at Fàs Mòr nursery, based at SMO, and in a range of media companies. The College plans to expand the programme to more schools in 2021-22 and are currently building capacity within the team, through training two staff members as SQA Assessors.

⁵⁵www.gaelicbooks.org

⁵⁶ www.gaelic4parents.com

d. Ensure the teaching of the history and culture which is reflected by Scottish Gaelic

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

161. The Scottish Studies Awards⁵⁷, developed in 2012, benefit from a broad and flexible framework, enabling candidates to develop their knowledge and understanding of Scotland. The awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6, consisting of four units, and at SCQF level 6 attracts 21 UCAS points upon completion.

e. In territories other than those in which Scottish Gaelic is traditionally used, encourage or provide teaching in or of Scottish Gaelic at all appropriate stages of education

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

162. See A.

163. The Scottish Government is open to working with all Local Authorities in Scotland to increase and expand their Gaelic education provision. It has funding streams available to those local authorities who would like to take their aspirations for the language forward.

164. In addition, the Education (Scotland) Act 2018 places duties on local authorities to support and promote Gaelic. It also allows parents to ask local authorities to consider delivering Gaelic in the authority area for their child.

f. Continue to encourage the national authorities to draft documents in Scottish Gaelic.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

165. There is now a network of roughly 60 public bodies with Gaelic Language Plans. Many of these Plans contain commitments to produce documents in Gaelic.

⁵⁷ <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64329.html>

g. Take further measures for the use of Scottish Gaelic within the framework of the regional or local authorities

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

166. See 163.

167. The Convention of the Highlands and Islands meets twice a year and seeks to strengthen the alignment between the Scottish Government and member organisations in order to support sustainable economic growth. Gaelic continues to feature in discussions in this forum.

h. Encourage the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Scottish Gaelic.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

168. See 163.

i. Take further steps to encourage local authorities to use Scottish Gaelic in debates in their assemblies.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

169. See 163. These Plans set out how they will use Gaelic in the bodies' internal operations and engagement with Gaelic speakers.

j. Encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of private radio and television programmes in Scottish Gaelic on a regular basis.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

170. The Scottish Government currently provides £12.8m to MGA Alba (Gaelic Media Service) for the delivery of BBC Alba. Almost 90% of this funding goes to independent production companies which provide programming for the channel.

171. Radio na Gael continues to broadcast in support of Gaelic however there are currently no commercial stations.

k. Encourage and/or facilitate the distribution of audio and audiovisual works in Scottish Gaelic.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

172. The Scottish Government has supported the development of language awareness training for Scots and Gaelic with BSL to ensure that languages are accessible to all.

6. Irish and Ulster Scots

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173. With the absence of a functioning Executive in Northern Ireland for a number of years, progress against the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts has been limited. In addition, resourcing issues within the Northern Ireland Office's Department for Communities' Language Branch (the lead Department for ECRML) have also slowed progress.

174. As a result, the working group known as the Interdepartmental Charter Implementation Group, has not met for a number of years. Currently, an update can be provided only on the recommendations made by the Committee of Ministers. The Northern Ireland Executive was restored in January 2020 and the subsequent 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement has led to a number of commitments for the promotion of the Irish Language, and Ulster-Scots Language, heritage and culture.

Recommendations for immediate action

Irish:

b. Adopt a comprehensive law and strategy on the promotion of Irish in Northern Ireland.

a. Provide the basic and further training of a sufficient number of teachers teaching in Irish.

Ulster Scots:

a. Adopt a strategy to promote Ulster Scots in education and other areas of public life.

Implementation measures taken by the United Kingdom authorities

175. The Irish Language Strategy and the Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy aim to fulfil the commitments in New Decade New Approach,

the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government and statutory obligation (Section 28e of the NI Act 1998). In November 2020, the Minister for the Department for Communities agreed to the development of an Irish Language strategy and an Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy, using a co-design and co-production approach.

176. A timeline to deliver on the development of an Irish Language Strategy and an Ulster-Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy has issued to the Northern Ireland Executive to consider and agree to publish. This has not yet featured on the Northern Ireland Executive meeting agenda. It is proposed that the strategies will be published by the end of 2021, subject to Executive approval.

APPENDIX

Note from United Kingdom Government (Wales Office)

- The United Kingdom Government takes seriously its role in supporting the ambition of one million Welsh Speakers by 2050.
- The Government is providing practical communications guidance across all departments to enable Welsh speaking citizens to engage better with the work of United Kingdom Government.
- At the National Eisteddfod in August 2019, the Secretary of State for Wales, together with the Welsh Language Commissioner Aled Roberts, launched new guidance for United Kingdom Government departments when planning and delivering bilingual communications targeted at audiences in Wales. This guidance, endorsed by the Government Communications Service, is the first of its kind for the United Kingdom Government.
- Included in this guidance are recommendations and good practice on designing and creating quality bilingual content in areas including events, consultations and campaigns. This guidance will support people working across both governments in Wales and in Whitehall to help achieve the Cymraeg 2050 ambition, ensuring that the Welsh language is visible, audible and, above all, accessible.
- The Wales Office has sought commitment from all United Kingdom Government departments to preserve and promote the Welsh language. Eleven United Kingdom Government departments now have a Welsh language scheme, including the Cabinet Office.
- Officials in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office have encouraged its network of posts to mark St David's Day across the overseas network. In 2019, this included a digital campaign highlighting Welsh culture, including the Welsh language.
- Welsh language considerations are embedded increasingly within many United Kingdom Government departments. The Home Office has Welsh language champions who raise the profile of the Welsh language across the department and arm's length bodies. It has also run successful campaigns in the Welsh language against forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.
- The United Kingdom Government committed to maintaining S4C's (a Welsh-language free-to-air television channel) for 2018/19 and 2019/20. S4C makes an important contribution to the creative economy in Wales.

- The United Kingdom Government is also funding award-winning creative output, providing bilingual services and developing initiatives where Welsh plays a central part.
- This includes the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, which announced in 2019 that Welsh language programming will benefit from up to 5% of its Young Audiences Content Fund and Audio Content Fund, with the aim of stimulating the creation of independent language productions.
- The United Kingdom Government is also supporting Civil Servants to learn Welsh. For example, the DVLA is one of many departments registered as an employer with the National Centre for Learning Welsh and, as a result, over 280 of their staff have registered to undertake online Welsh language training courses. They are also championing Welsh in their service provision and have developed a new 'Welsh language Call Handler of the Year' award category in its annual contact centre awards.
- The United Kingdom Government is constantly looking to improve its Welsh language services. Most recently, the Department for Work and Pensions has implemented a Welsh version of the Universal Credit Online system. It is ensuring all its digital services are in Welsh as well as English. It has also undertaken a number of Welsh language specific recruitment exercises to ensure that it has sufficient Welsh speaking work coaches. This is considered a leading case study of best practice for Welsh language recruitment, and the Department has been sharing its experience with other United Kingdom Government departments.