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EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

Sixth periodical report

presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter

UNITED KINGDOM

Sixth periodical report presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 15 of the Charter on European Regional and Minority Languages

UNITED KINGDOM

A. EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES – CORNISH/KERNEWEK

Report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – Cornish – 6th cycle submission, June 2023

Part I

1. Number and geographic distribution

In the 2011 UK Census, 557 people in England and Wales declared Cornish to be their main language, 464 of whom lived in Cornwall. In the 2021 Census, 567 people in England and Wales declared Cornish to be their main language, 471 of whom lived in Cornwall.

The Census asks respondents to state when English is not their main language by writing their main language in a box. The respondents identified above therefore identified Cornish as their main language through this mechanism, so this does not record the full number of Cornish speakers who may have lower levels of competency, and most Cornish speakers will have recorded their main language as English.

2. General policies

The UK Government recognised Cornish under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in 2002. The Government then further recognised the Cornish as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in 2014, reinforcing official recognition for Cornish culture and heritage, including the language.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has published a Draft Media Bill which for the first time specifies Cornish language as a minority language of the UK for broadcast. The draft Bill has been published for consultation and if adopted into law would enable greater use of Cornish language in broadcast media.

Cornwall Council has set out its [Cornish Language Strategy 2015-2025](#). The Strategy sets out how use of Cornish will increase in education, community, public life and research.

3. Political and budgetary changes

The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023-24 makes £614.8m available for Cornwall, an increase of £51.6m or 9.2% on 2022-23. The majority of this funding is un-ringfenced in recognition of local authorities being best placed to understand local priorities, which includes funding for language and culture programmes.

Cornwall Council allocates £150,000 per annum to the Cornish language programme, to support a full-time language development officer, a project to support Cornish language in schools and to support small community projects. This is allocated from the Council's overall budget to support local public services.

Part II

Article 7

Para 1(a) recognition of the regional or minority language as an expression of cultural wealth

Cornwall Council adopted a policy in 2019 which recognises the importance of the Cornish language as a unique asset which has been central to the defining of Cornwall's distinct heritage and culture and celebrates the Cornish language as a vital part of Cornwall's contemporary culture.

Cornwall Council has a Cornish National Minority Working Group to coordinate Cornwall's action under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the [action plan](#) of the working group recognised the Cornish language as an important part of Cornwall's and the UK's cultural wealth.

Some partner public organisations such as National Trust and English Heritage use bilingual Cornish language signs on some sites and publications.

Para 1(b) The respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question.

Cornwall Council is the lead body for the Cornish language programme and the Council's boundaries correspond with the historically recognised boundary of Cornwall and the traditional territory of the Cornish language.

Media is commissioned and broadcast at UK or south-west England regional level where Cornish is considered to be a minority issue not of interest to wider audiences so no Cornish language content is commissioned. Cornwall Council and Screen Cornwall separately support an annual short film commission (FylmK) and four of these shorts have now been published on the BBC I-Player. This is the first time that Cornish language content has been made available in this way and the aim is to develop the amount of Cornish language content on the platform. The draft Media Bill's inclusion of Cornish language will enable greater use of the language in digital media for broadcast if adopted into law.

Para 1(c) The need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them

The Cornish Language Strategy 2015-2025 sets out how Cornwall Council will develop use of Cornish language and Cornwall Council allocates £150,000 per annum for the Cornish language programme. Each year, Cornwall Council publishes a [Cornish Language Operational Plan](#) and an end of year report to monitor progress.

Para 1(d) The facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life

The Cornish Language Office of Cornwall Council provides a range of services to enable greater use of Cornish in public life. This includes a translation service with six freelance translators providing over 700 translations each year to business, community groups, local councils and individuals. Cornwall Council has included bilingual signage in its brand guidelines for site entrances, and other organisations have used bilingual signs on their sites and buildings, e.g. Kresen Kernow, Hall for Cornwall, Tintagel Castle, Camborne Town Council.

Akademi Kernewek provides an [online Cornish dictionary](#) and has developed other tools to make Cornish language accessible to speakers and learners such as examples of use (Corpus search) and place name database.

Many businesses and organisations use some Cornish language in project names and greetings. More extensive use in social media, publications and events is provided by a network of community and voluntary groups who jointly promote [Cornish on the Speak Cornish website](#).

Learning resources are also provided on the [GoCornish website](#). This includes a comprehensive project for delivery of Cornish language in primary schools. Schools have to register for support and teaching resources and 50 schools take part in the project. GoCornish also provide learning resources for adults, from introductory phrase books to learning apps.

BBC Cornwall broadcasts a [five minute weekly news summary](#).

A social enterprise regularly [broadcasts content](#) entirely in Cornish via online radio and youtube.

Digital media has helped provide more opportunities for people to hear the language being used but a wider range of content is needed to encourage learners and young people to enjoy the language.

Para. 1(e) the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with either groups in the State using different language

Cornish is rooted in Cornwall, although there are learners and speakers across the UK and around the world, and there is regular exchange both online and at events. As a very small language community, it is important for Cornish speakers to meet with other Celtic language communities, which happens through cultural events such as Lorient Interceltique in Brittany, Lowender festival in Redruth, Cornwall and the Celtic Media Festival. Welsh, Breton and Cornish are not mutually understood but are sister languages with many similarities, and the communities are able to learn from each other's language development projects and speakers can experience using their language outside their territory.

The main official forum for discussion of matters relating to language planning for regional and minority languages in the British Isles is the British-Irish Council's Indigenous Minority Language working group.

The British-Irish Council was established under Strand Three of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in 1998 to promote positive, practical relationships among its members and provide a forum for consultation and cooperation. The Council's membership comprises representatives from UK Government, Irish Government, Scottish Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Welsh Government, Isle of Man Government, Government of Jersey and the Government of Guernsey.

The Council has eleven work sector groups that meet at official level which include the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser Used Languages Work Sector. This focuses on the nine minority languages represented on the British-Irish Council. Through this forum, the UK Government discusses and shares best practice on supporting minority languages. It represents the Cornish language for the work sector, working closely with Cornwall Council.

Para 1(f) The provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages.

Cornwall Council commissions the GoCornish project by Golden Tree to develop and support Cornish language teaching in primary schools. There are no primary school teachers in Cornwall who speak good Cornish so all resources have to be supported with videos and soundfiles and active in-person support for teachers. 53 schools are registered with the GoCornish project as of May 2023. The project delivers a basic level of Cornish and was intended to develop to conversational level.

Cornwall Council has worked with community teachers to introduce the accredited WJEC Entry Level Cornish assessments ready for secondary schools to use. The WJEC assessments are currently made available only to adult classes. Additional resources would enable a peripatetic Cornish teacher to deliver classes and after-school clubs to a number of secondary schools and this is a medium term aim of the Cornish language strategy.

Community groups and community teachers deliver adult education classes across Cornwall and also in Wales, Bristol and London. Recent surveys show over 200 people attending classes each year, and more are learning via online apps. Kesva an Taves Kernewek (The Cornish Language Board) delivers examinations in Cornish from entry level to above A-level equivalent, though these are not nationally recognised.

The University of Exeter provides evening classes in Cornish language and supports research into the language. The University has offered an undergraduate module in Cornish language but a more flexible Masters level course could provide more appropriate opportunities to train Cornish teachers, translators, etc.

Para 1(g) The provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn if they so desire

Adult class provision remains steady with classes across Cornwall. Most but not all towns have classes. Most classes are delivered by voluntary community groups and individual teachers. Only one class is provided formally at an Adult Education College. The teaching of Cornish is heavily dependent on volunteer effort. Many of the teachers are untrained but give their time and expertise freely. Some training is offered through the annual teacher days organised in conjunction with Kesva an Taves Kernewek (the Cornish Language Board).

Para 1(h) The promotion of study and research on regional and minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions.

Akademi Kernewek, University of Exeter and Cornwall Council host a biennial conference to disseminate current research into the Cornish language. Akademi Kernewek is a voluntary body providing linguistic expertise on the Cornish language, setting standards for the language and coordinating linguistic research. It is the corpus planning body for Cornish which is developing its own research programme and working in partnership with the University of Exeter. The Institute of Cornish Studies at the University of Exeter supports research into use of Cornish through its postgraduate research programme.

Para 1(i) The promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

The Cornish language community takes part in regular transnational festivals and where possible takes part in minority language projects. Regular festivals include Lorient Interceltique where Cornish musicians, dancers and sportspeople take part and the language is featured, Celtic Media Festival which includes Cornish language film, Lowender Celtic music and dance festival in Redruth, Cornwall which includes music and speech in Cornish, and the Pan-Celtic music festival in Ireland where many Cornish language songs have won. A Cornish language group won the Liet International Music Festival in Friesland 2018 but there were insufficient resources to take part in subsequent years.

The Cornish Language Office has taken part in other minority language projects such as the Erasmus+ funded IndyLan app, and a project with S4C to provide digital resources for young children such as the Cyw app in Welsh, Breton and Cornish. Taking part in transnational projects of this kind help the Cornish language community to learn more about language planning in other endangered language communities.

Para 2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not already done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it.

The Government is committed to creating a fairer society in which all people, of whatever ethnic origin or background, are valued and able to participate fully and realise their own potential. The Government recognises the importance to people in Cornwall of their proud history and their distinct culture and heritage.

Para 3. The parties undertake to promote by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

Cornwall Council's promotion of Cornish in schools and in the community is premised on the principle of mutual respect for and between cultures. In many cases, taster and information sessions have been offered as part of work on equality, diversity and inclusion and in some cases have formed part of discussions around global citizenship and linguistic diversity. The language is used in events and activities in Cornwall to encourage broad participation and inclusion, and to raise awareness of the endangered language. The UK Government will continue to work with Cornwall Council to protect the recognition of the importance to people in Cornwall of their proud history and distinct culture and heritage, including the Cornish language.

B. EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES – MANX GAELIC

Report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – Manx Gaelic – 6th cycle submission, June 2023

Introduction

The Manx Language has continued to grow in recent years, as evidenced by the 2021 Census showing a 34.7% increase in the number of people recorded as having ability in the language since 2011. To support the ambition to continue this growth, Part III provisions of the ECRML were extended to the Isle of Man in relation to Manx Gaelic in 2021, and in 2022 the Isle of Man Government published a new ten year Manx Language Strategy.

Under the message 'Manx Language for All', the stated aim of the new Strategy is to increase the number of Manx language speakers to 5,000 by 2032, citing the 'powerful cultural legacy' of the language and the need to support all of those who wish to learn or teach the language. Further support for Manx Language, Culture and History is also underpinned by the Isle of Man's UNESCO Biosphere status.

Part I

Please provide information about any changes in the general policies, legislation or practice of your state in respect of regional or minority languages. Please also indicate any developments which are expected to occur during the next monitoring cycle, such as envisaged political or budgetary changes, policy plans or any other elements that may have a direct or indirect effect about the regional or minority languages in your State.

In recent years there has been much success in expanding the use of the Manx language on the Isle of Man. Following the 2017- 2021 Manx Language Strategy, the 2021 Census evidenced a 34.7% increase in the number of Manx language speakers since 2011. Much has been implemented on the Island to support this growth and develop the framework surrounding the Manx language.

In 2015, Jeebin (the Manx Language Network) was established for the purpose of coordinating the aims of various interested bodies, and developing ideas for the future of the Manx language. Jeebin is comprised of representatives from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's Skimmee Ghaelgagh (Manx Language Unit), Yn Skimmee Gaelgagh (the Manx Language Service), Culture Vannin, Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, Mooinjer Veggey, Manx National Heritage, and 'Possan Rhonsee' (the Manx Language Research Group).

Following this, in 2016, the Island obtained UNESCO Biosphere status in recognition of it being a location of extraordinary beauty. In the granting of such a status, UNESCO take into consideration a nation's environment, economy, culture, heritage and community. Having achieved this status, Manx culture and heritage was recognised globally and further steps were taken to reinforce it, including the Isle of Man Arts Strategy 2017 – 2022, which was developed to celebrate the importance of arts and culture to our UNESCO Biosphere status.

In 2017, the Culture Vannin Cultural Centre was established as a community hub for Manx language, culture and heritage; making various resources available to the general public.

Later, the Communications Act 2021 was introduced and updated obsolete legislation. Under this Act, it is a requirement that the licence of the public service broadcaster must include a condition requiring a proportion of programmes to be broadcast in Manx Gaelic. It also stipulates that in determining the proportion of programmes that are to be broadcast in Manx Gaelic, the Communications and Utilities Regulatory Authority (CURA) must consult with Manx National Heritage and the public service broadcaster.

In further support of broadcasting in the Manx language, the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee has evolved from being funded by Culture Vannin, to becoming a sub-committee of Culture Vannin in 2022. This Committee was established to support broadcasting in and about Manx language and culture, and comprises public broadcasters, Manx language broadcasters, and Culture Vannin.

Regarding the Island's aims for the future, 'Our Island Plan' was published in 2022 and outlines the National Development Strategy for the next ten years, and makes a commitment to supporting the representation of Manx history, culture, music, language and folklore.

In conjunction, with this Plan, and following the success of the previous Strategy, the 2022-2032 Manx Language Strategy was published with the stated aim of increasing the number of Manx language speakers to five thousand by 2032. To meet this aim, the Strategy outlines the following Themes:

Theme 1 – Appropriate and Accessible Resources

Theme 2 – Manx as an Important Part of National & Cultural Identity

Theme 3 – Manx for the Manx Speaking Community

Theme 3 – Lifelong Learning of Manx from Early Years to Later Years

Across these Themes, and to ensure that the Strategy is carried out, twenty-eight strategic aims are outlined, each with multiple strategic actions for delivery by 2032.

Part II

Para 1(a). The recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth:

The Isle of Man Government's Manx Language Strategy 2022-2032 recognises the cultural wealth of the Manx Language and its 'powerful cultural legacy' with the message 'Manx Language for All'. The strategy supports compliance with Part III of the ECRML for greater use of Manx in public life, and lists targets designed to support those who wish to learn or teach the language.

The Strategy also set a target of making at least 700 historical Manx documents available online with side-by-side material translation, along with the digitisation and online availability of Manx language documents held in the Manx Museum archives and library.

A new research group, Possan Ronsee (The Manx Language Research Group), has been set up under the auspices of Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (the Manx Language Society) to identify and support corpus based research projects and has thus far produced a bibliography of academic works on the language.

Para 1(b). The respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question:

Representatives of Jeebin (The Manx Language Network) are to brief government departments on the Manx Language Strategy in June 2023.

Para 1(c). The need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them:

The administration of Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, the Manx Medium primary school, has been transferred from Moonjer Veggey (a charity and nursery provider), to Government administration, with resource development support provided through Moonjer Veggey.

Development has also taken place for secondary school-aged children, for whom Manx is available as a curricular subject upon request at all state schools, with a new writing award also being introduced for secondary school pupils.

Further steps are being considered, with Culture Vannin and the Department of Education, Sport and Culture's Manx Language Officer consulting with Government departments to ensure that they understand the commitments of Government in supporting the language.

Para 1(d). The facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life:

Financial support has been made available to not only adults, but also secondary school students, to incentivise the publishing of books in the Manx language. Examples to date

include the pupil translations of Peter Rabbit (published in 2021) and Jemima Puddleduck (2022).

The use of the Manx language in public and private life is supported by the various services offered by Culture Vannin, through which the general public can access an online dictionary, a free translation service, a searchable bilingual corpus, and online lessons for learners of all levels (both live or pre-recorded).

A stated aim of the Manx Language Strategy 2022-32 is to produce a comprehensive grammar programme for schools and this has been supported by the publishing of textbooks and courses. The content of these resources has been informed by a number of academic papers that have been published in the past ten years, most notably by Professor Max Wheeler and Dr Christopher Lewin.

To recognise and celebrate the use of the Manx language in public life, Jeebin (the Manx Language Network) have established an award name 'Yn Londyer'.

Para 1(e). The maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages:

Bunscoil Gaelgagh have established strong links and exchange trips with Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosógin in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. A weekly tri-lingual Manx-Irish-Scottish series of lecture-discussions called 'Cassan' was held online during spring 2023.

The Manx Language Officer of the Department of Education, Sport and Culture participates in the British-Irish Council Working Party for Indigenous and Minority Languages, the purpose of which is to share best practice in support for these languages across the relevant jurisdictions.

Para 1(f). The provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages:

The Manx Language Unit has engaged the services of a CELTA teacher trainer to deliver a new 'Certificate for Teaching Celtic Languages' course. This is a twelve week course to be taught online and with the aim of supporting teachers in the effective planning and delivery of lessons.

In addition to developments in teacher training, a new comprehensive grammar programme is being devised for use in schools, with lessons for adults being made available through Culture Vannin. Having previously been held face-to-face, these lessons were made available online during the Coronavirus pandemic and are now available by all learners in the Manx diaspora.

Para 1(g). The provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn if they so desire:

Culture Vannin's 'Learn Manx' website and social media pages promote lessons, events and activities in or about Manx and host discussions about the language. 'Forum Gaelgagh' is a Manx medium Facebook forum which hosts more advanced language learning discussions.

Para 1(h). The promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions:

Currently, there are no university modules or courses for Manx; however, academic interest in the language is growing. In May 2023 Ollscoil na Gaillimhe (University of Galway) hosted a three day 'Language and Society in the Isle of Man' conference in Douglas, with the support of Visit Isle of Man (an executive agency of the Department for Enterprise), Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage. An academic led 'Manx Language Research Group' is now represented at Jeebin (the Manx Language Network).

Para 1(i). The promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States:

Bunscoil Gaelgagh have established exchange trips with Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosógin in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland.

Para 2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not already done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.

No developments since the last report.

Para 3. The parties undertake to promote by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

An advocacy toolkit 'Cum Seose y Ghaelg' has been produced and continues to be developed. The aim of the toolkit is to facilitate supporters of the language in explaining the importance of the Manx language to the Isle of Man and the benefits of bilingualism.

Para 4. In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

The Manx Language Strategy 2022-2032 was produced by Jeebin (Manx Language Network) in consultation with the wider community.

Part III

Article 8 – Education

Para 1(a)(iv). If the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of pre-school education, to favour and/or encourage the application of the measures referred to under i to iii above:

Since the extension of Part III of the Charter to the Isle of Man, pre-school and nursery provision on the Isle of Man that uses both Manx and English languages remains available through Mooinjer Veggey (non-government organisation). However, the availability of this service has reduced from previously being provided in two locations (one in the South and one in the Middle of the Island), to only one (in the West). It is hoped that planned changes in childcare support provision will encourage the expansion of Manx language provision in this area.

Though the availability of Manx language provision has reduced for pre-school aged children, its accessibility for children of younger age has expanded with provision now being available for 2-3 year-olds, and the establishment of an additional 'Possan Cloie' parent and toddler group in the South of the Island.

Para 1(b)(i). To make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages:

Children are then afforded the opportunity to carry their Manx medium language learning through to their primary education at Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, a school that is operated by the Department for Education, Sport and Culture. Manx languages lessons are also available at all government maintained primary schools from the age of seven.

Learning in Manx is supported by Mooinjer Veggey, who develops and provides resources in Manx.

Para 1(c)(iii). To provide, within secondary education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum:

Manx language lessons are available as a curricular option at all of the Island's secondary schools, and at least two Manx medium lessons per week are available up until age 14 at one secondary school. Manx speaking pupils at other schools are offered support where available.

GCSE (Teisht Chadjin Ghaelgagh) and A-level (Ard Teisht) equivalent qualifications in Manx are produced and awarded by the Department of Education, Sport and Culture in consultation with CCEA, the Northern Ireland awards body. As these qualifications are not awarded by an OFQUAL certified body, they do not garner UCAS points, but are generally accepted as equivalent. However, the absence of available UCAS points can discourage some pupils from studying A-level equivalent qualification for Manx.

Para 1(f)(ii). To offer such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education:

Manx is no longer offered at the University College Isle of Man (UCM) for adult learners; however, the same courses do remain available online through De-linguis Language Tuition, a private provider. Additional face-to-face and online lessons are also available through Culture Vannin, which operates a 'Learn Manx' mailing list and publishes a newsletter to inform interested parties when lessons are taking place.

Further steps are being taken to increase the availability of further education in Manx language learning, with one of the actions in the Manx Language Strategy 2022-32 being the development of clearly defined learning pathways for adults and children.

Para 1(g). To make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language:

All of the Island's schools are UNESCO Biosphere Partners, the requirements of which involve the promotion of sustainability and local culture, language and heritage. To support this, Manx National Heritage (Government-funded charitable trust responsible for protecting and promoting the Isle of Man's natural and cultural heritage) provide resources in schools and online, and deliver presentations and lessons in Manx at Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.

Para 1(h). To provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party:

Professional development for Manx language teachers has been provided through a 'Language Teaching for Celtic Languages' certificated course which is delivered online. The Advisory Teacher for the Manx Curriculum delivers training for primary and secondary teachers including an Introduction to the Isle of Man Course for all new teachers to the Island including elements of Manx Language, politics, music, song and traditions sessions supported by development officers from Culture Vannin.

For teachers who are wishing to transition to teaching the Manx language, and who are not yet able to communicate in Manx, tertiary education and training is not yet available, but options are being considered.

Para 1(i). To set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public:

At present, there is not a scheme for independent quality assurance of the delivery of Manx language lessons. This is an area that is being developed.

Article 9 – Judicial Authorities

Para 3. The Parties undertake to make available in the regional or minority languages the most important national statutory texts and those relating particularly to users of these languages, unless they are otherwise provided:

The Attorney General's Chambers has confirmed that laws translated into Manx will be linked to the corresponding legislation on the legislation.gov.im website. These will be subject to a disclaimer to state that the English text is the legal version and that summaries of laws that are being promulgated are given in Manx each Tynwald Day, as specified in the Standing Orders of Tynwald Court. The Standing Orders also outline that Manx is an admissible language in the Tynwald Court, and that petitions may be presented in Manx.

An annual budget for translation has been established by Culture Vannin and this covers the translation of legislation. The process started several years ago with just five statutory documents, and a plan to translate one per year after that.

Due to the lengthy process of translating legislation, going forward, only the most relevant sections will be translated for long statutes.

Article 10 – Administrative Authorities and Public Services

Para 1(a)(v). To ensure that users of regional or minority languages may validly submit a document in these languages:

The Culture Vannin translation service is advertised to government departments and authorities, and ensures that translations are provided at no cost.

Para 1(c). To allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language:

Examples of documents being drafted in Manx in recent years include the second Manx Language Strategy which was published in 2022 and is available online in both Manx and English, and Culture Vannin's 2022 Annual Report was also published in Manx and English, and laid before Tynwald (Isle of Man Parliamentary House).

Para 2(b). The possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages:

Though the 'Report of the Select Committee on the Greater Use of Manx Gaelic' (1985) is not statutory or enforceable, it did receive Tynwald approval and a number of its recommendations have been actioned over the years. In recent years, we have seen a number of applications for teaching posts being submitted in Manx, and it is expected that the ability to submit applications in the language will increase as the number of users continues to grow.

Para 2(g). The use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages:

Consultation between Government agencies and representatives from Jeebin is to take place on an annual basis, with the aim of meeting this goal.

Para 4(a). With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:

translation or interpretation as may be required;

The Culture Vannin translation service advertised to Government departments and agencies, is free, and is underpinned by Coonceil ny Gaelgey (the Manx Language Advisory Council).

Para 4(b). recruitment and, where necessary, training of the officials and other public service employees required:

Training for such persons is currently available and provided by both the Department of Education Sport and Culture, and Culture Vannin. Work is currently in progress to make this training more accessible through the use of digital and online platforms.

Para 4(c). Compliance as far as possible with requests from public service employees having a knowledge of a regional or minority language to be appointed in the territory in which that language is used:

Previously, only Culture Vannin offered Manx language lessons to Government departments. This offer was taken up by members of Tynwald (Parliament of the Isle of Man), as well as employees of the Cabinet Office and the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

However, this has now developed, and Manx language lessons are now offered to staff as a joint venture between the Department of Education, Sport and Culture and the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

Manx National Heritage also employ a member of staff who is fluent in the Manx language, and offer support to other members of staff who wish to learn Manx.

Article 11 – Media

Para 1(a)(iii). To make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages:

The Communications Act 2021 includes a requirement that the licence of the public service broadcaster must include a condition requiring a proportion of programmes to be broadcast in Manx Gaelic. It also stipulates that in determining the proportion of programmes that are to be broadcast in Manx Gaelic, the Communications and Utilities Regulatory Authority (CURA) must consult with Manx National Heritage and the public service broadcaster.

In further support of broadcasting in the Manx language, the Gaelic Broadcasting Committee has evolved from being funded by Culture Vannin, to becoming a sub-committee of Culture Vannin in 2022. This Committee was established to support broadcasting in and about Manx language and culture, and comprises public broadcasters, Manx language broadcasters, and Culture Vannin.

Para 1(b)(ii). To encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis:

Five weekly radio programmes are broadcast in the Manx language on Manx Radio, being aired on a Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday; however, only two of these programmes are broadcast entirely in Manx, with the others being bilingual, one of which is mainly in English.

A weekly podcast is also available to provide a summary of that week's Manx language broadcasting; this is available on the Manx Radio website, as well as on podcast mobile applications.

Para 1(c). To encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis:

The Isle of Man does not operate a terrestrial or digital television channel. This means that any audio-visual content that is produced in the Manx language is limited to being available online. Several providers do work to provide such content, including both Jeebin and Culture Vannin who work with Manx Telecom (providers of internet-based television channel MTTV) to produce bilingual and Manx-only versions of some of their broadcasts.

Para 1(d). To encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in the regional or minority languages:

Audio-visual content is produced by various bodies and includes the 'Learn Manx', Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage YouTube channels, the Manx Language Service's website, and Bunscoill Ghalegagh and Moinjer Veggey's Facebook pages.

Para 1(e)(ii). To encourage and/or facilitate the publication of newspaper articles in the regional or minority languages on a regular basis:

Culture Vannin fund the regular publication of an Isle of Man Newspapers article in Manx. This is written by members of the public who are fluent in Manx, including academics.

Para 1(f)(i). to cover the additional costs of those media which use regional or minority languages, wherever the law provides for financial assistance in general for the media:

Both Manx Radio and the BBC are public service broadcasters who financially support the broadcasting of radio programmes in the Manx language. The two programmes that are broadcast solely in Manx on Manx Radio are supported by the BBC.

Both Manx Telecom and the Isle of Man Newspapers are independent bodies, with Culture Vannin funding publications at Isle of Man Newspapers, and working with Manx Telecom to produce internet-based television content in the Manx language.

Para 2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the above-mentioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary:

Manx is one of the three Goidelic languages, between which semi-communication is possible. Scottish Gaelic language programming is available Island-wide through BBC Alba, with the addition of Irish Gaelic language being available in the West of the Island through RTÉ.

Para 3. The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media:

Manx language broadcasting is supported in the Communications Act 2021, for which CURA are responsible for regulating and licencing broadcasters. The Gaelic Broadcasting Committee was formed as a sub-committee of Culture Vannin in 2022, and are directly involved in the process of determining what proportion of the public broadcaster's content is available in the Manx language.

Article 12 – Cultural Activities and Facilities

Para 1(a). To encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages:

Jeebin encourages all types of expression in the Manx language, and Culture Vannin have developed a website by the name of 'Learn Manx' to make resources available to all and to work as a notice-board for various events.

The Island also benefits from voluntary organisations that are working to encourage creative expression through the establishment of competitions and awards, with grants also being made available by Culture Vannin for individuals wishing to pursue cultural projects.

These competitions and projects have progressed in recent years to result in the formation of an annual Manx Language Festival, Yn Chooish, which is there to encourage people of all ages and levels to speak Manx.

Para 1(c). To foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities:

As previously stated, Culture Vannin operate a free translation service, the scope of which includes various forms of work. Two examples of this services operation are the translations of the book 'Friends and Heroes' / 'Caarjyn as Fenee', and a translated animation developed in collaboration with Mooka Media, a company based in Ireland.

Para 1(d). To ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing:

For any organisation or Government body looking to organise cultural activities or events, a free consultation service is available through Culture Vannin.

An extensive collection of resources is also available to members of the community through both Culture Vannin and Manx National Heritage.

Para 1(e). To promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population:

Support is available to anyone who is wishing to organise cultural activities in Manx or other languages. This is available through Culture Vannin, Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (Manx Language Society), and Pobble (Manx Language Supporters Organisation); the latter two having large networks of fluent speakers who have extensive experience in cultural activities.

Such support is evidenced in the organisation of the Celtic Gathering, Yn Chruinnaght, and the Manx Language Festival, Yn Chooish. Both of these events are organised and supported by Manx speakers from a variety of organisations.

Para 1(f). To encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities:

All Manx language speakers are encouraged by the various organisations on the Island to organise and participate in events and festivals, including the Celtic Gathering, Yn Chruinnaght, and the Manx Language Festival, Yn Chooish.

Para 1(g). To encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages:

Manx National Heritage is a statutory body and government-funded charitable trust which is responsible for protecting and promoting the Isle of Man's natural and cultural heritage. This includes the maintenance and operation of heritage sites for public use, the operation of

museums on various aspects of Manx culture and heritage, and the maintenance of archives containing manuscripts in, and relating to, the Manx language.

Para 1(h). If necessary, to create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terminology in each regional or minority language:

A free translation service is provided by Culture Vannin, which also operates the Manx Language Advisory Council, Coonceil ny Gaelgey, a body that supports the translation service and is responsible for discussing and coining new terminology.

Para 3. The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect:

Our Island Plan, the 10-year National Development Strategy published in 2022, commits to supporting the representation of Manx culture. Currently, Manx culture is represented internationally, an example of which is the Festival Interceltique Lorient, an annual Celtic festival located in Brittany, France.

Article 13 – Economic and Social Life

Para 1(c). To oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities:

Members of the Manx language community have actively and passionately lobbied on the rare occasions that practices to discourage the use of the Manx language arise. Such occurrences are becoming less common in recent years due to increased support from the general public of the Isle of Man who have become increasingly aware and proud of the Island's cultural heritage. This is evidenced in the 2021 census, and the branding of many local companies who proudly showcase their Manx heritage; a perfect example of this is the branding of The Fynoderee Distillery's award winning products.

Para 1(d). To facilitate and/or encourage the use of regional or minority languages by means other than those specified in the above sub-paragraphs:

Culture Vannin has successfully developed a cultural awareness programme for use by the Island's business sector.

As stated above, Manx culture has also been showcased on the branding of local produce sold around the world. Isle of Man Creameries cheese, which has Manx language printed on the packaging, can be found around the world, including on Emirates Airlines. More recently, Fynoderee Distillery have enjoyed great success internationally with their branding which is focused on Manx culture and folklore.

Para 2(a). To include in their financial and banking regulations provisions which allow, by means of procedures compatible with commercial practice, the use of regional or minority languages in drawing up payment orders (cheques, drafts, etc.) or other financial documents, or, where appropriate, to ensure the implementation of such provisions:

Not only is it possible to write and deposit bank cheques in the Manx language, but the Isle of Man also has its own legal tender which highlights Manx culture, historic and significant figures, and includes Manx language.

Para 2(b). In the economic and social sectors directly under their control (public sector), to organise activities to promote the use of regional or minority languages:

The use and teaching of the Manx language is supported and promoted by a number of public sector organisations, for some of which it is their sole remit. These organisations include the Department of Education, Sport and Culture, the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, Culture Vannin, and Manx National Heritage.

These bodies are actively involved in the Manx language community, and contribute towards the organisation of local events and competitions, such as the Manx Folk Awards.

Article 14 – Trans Frontier Exchanges

The Parties undertake:

a. to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information, vocational training and permanent education;

The Isle of Man is a member of the British Irish Council with representation on the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser Used Languages Work Sector. Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, the local Manx language primary school, organise an annual study-exchange tripe with an Irish Gaelic primary school located in Ennis, Ireland.

Measures Undertaken in Response to the Recommendations in the Last Report

The Committee of Experts notes that demand for primary education in Manx Gaelic is growing and therefore considers that the provision of such primary education should be increased in the Isle of Man, including through making it available in more municipalities. The Manx Language Strategy 2021-2026 also contributes to reaching the objective of the recommendation by setting out measures and a mechanism for reviewing the needs of primary level teaching in the Isle of Man.

Primary education in Manx Gaelic continues to be provided at the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh. At present the main focus is on developing a training programme for teachers in order to increase the number of teachers fluent in Manx Gaelic and able to teach through the medium of this language as this will impact on the ability to expand provision moving forward. Monitoring will continue to take place in order to assess the need for primary level teaching in Manx Gaelic.

An interim report providing an evaluation of the Manx Language Strategy 2017-2021. The second Manx Language Strategy 2022-2032 includes a long term action to “Explore a business case for a second Manx Medium School”.

C. EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES – GAELIC AND SCOTS

Report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – Scots and Scottish Gaelic – 6th cycle submission, June 2023

Part I

Scots

The SNP 2021 manifesto included the following commitment for Scots;

- We will also bring forward a new Scottish Languages Bill which takes further steps to support Gaelic, acts on the Scots language and recognises that Scotland is a multilingual society.

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Scots Language community on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation.

Since the time of the last report, statistics from the National Census in Scotland (NRS) for both Gaelic and Scots languages has been made available. At the time of the last report, over 1.5m people identified themselves as being Scots speakers throughout Scotland and a further 400,000 identified themselves as having some skills in Scots. The latest figures from the 2022 census will give us, for the first time, comparable data on the Scots-speaking community. The data is not available yet.

The latest education statistics can be found here:

[Schools in Scotland 2022: summary statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/consultation-papers/collections/documents/Schools_in_Scotland_2022_summary_statistics_-_gov.scot.pdf)

In addition, work has been carried out to refresh the Scots Language Policy which was published in 2015. The policy sets out the Scottish Government's position on Scots, our aims for the language and the practical steps we will take towards fulfilling these aims. The refresh will be completed once the Language Bill is realised.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of its support to the Scots Language community and the bodies within it. We have increased our budgets in recent years from £250k to around £550k per annum and continue to look for further opportunities.

The Scots Scriever post within the National Library of Scotland and this post continues. This partnership appointment between Creative Scotland and the National Library of Scotland is part time over 2 years and the purpose of the Scriever residency is specifically: 1) to produce original, creative work in Scots (any variant or dialect) in any genre or discipline throughout the tenure, and, 2) to have explicit responsibility for raising the profile, understanding and appreciation of creative work in the Scots language, including that held within the National Library's collections.

The Scottish Government established the Scots Language Publication Grant in 2018. The scheme run by the Scottish Books Trust is designed to support writers and publishers who wish to create publications in Scots. Up to 2022, a total of **68 applications** for funding have been received. The range and scope of the applications, and available funding has enabled **27 grants** (9 per annum) to be approved.

By 2022, 14 publications supported through the grant scheme are now in print and the other 13 projects are progressing towards publication. Covid restrictions caused some delays for publishers, but allowing for some slippage, approved projects are expected to be completed within agreed timeframes. The Grant continues to be supported.

The 27 publications comprise of 17 new and original texts and 10 translations of existing books into Scots. Demand for support continues to rise, year on year, as more publishers become aware of the grant.

Scots Hoose is also newly funded by the Scottish Government. Its mission is to deliver outreach and produce resources for Early Years, Primary and Secondary settings for all of Scotland's 32 local authorities.

Scots Hoose is a Scots language education project for learning and creativity for children and young people. The Scots Hoose project is for all, with particular focus on young Scots speakers living in so-called areas of multiple deprivation.

It is the experience of the Scots Hoose project that young Scots speakers living in Scotland's poorest communities can benefit significantly in terms of literacy, self-esteem, and educational attainment when they have increased meaningful opportunities to read and learn in their own language.

In 2022, with funding from the Scottish Government, Yaldi Books, a new publisher dedicated to the production and distribution of free Scots language books to all Scottish schools, was set up. Early in 2023, Yaldi (in partnership with digital resource provider Scots Hoose) produced its first book, a Scots language comic titled "Eejit Street". To date, over 9000 copies of the comic have been distributed free of charge to over 300 schools, libraries, and education providers across Scotland.

Scottish Gaelic

The SNP 2021 manifesto included the following commitment for Gaelic;

- A new strategic approach to Gaelic medium education,
- Explore the creation of a Gàidhealtachd area.
- Review of Bòrd na Gàidhlig structures and functions,
- A Languages Bill

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Gaelic Language community on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation.

The Scottish Government, despite the difficult financial climate, has grown the Gaelic budget which is now just short of £29m. With additional capital available to Local Authorities and communities for developments and a new Gaelic Development Fund of £500k The latter having supported the development of a new multi-platform learning programme, Speak Gaelic.

Since the time of the last report, the National Census was undertaken in May 2022. However the statistics are not yet available. Therefore, the 2011 statistics are still in use for planning and policy purposes. These were: 57,375 people in Scotland identified themselves as Gaelic speakers and a total of 87,056 people identified themselves as having some skills in Gaelic. Gaelic speakers were largely found in historically strong Gaelic speaking areas: along the west coast in the outer and inner Hebrides as well as the Highlands and in towns and cities such as Edinburgh and Glasgow. In 2001, according to the Census, there were 58,650 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, therefore the historical decline in Gaelic speakers somewhat slowed between 2001 and 2011. There was also an increase in the numbers of Gaelic speakers between the ages of 3-18.

The 2021 Gaelic report from the [Scottish Social Attitudes Survey](#) shows significant increases in the support for Gaelic and also in awareness and interest in the language from the last survey carried out in 2012.

- More than half of those surveyed, 55%, believe that all children in Scotland between five and 15-years-old, should be taught Gaelic as a school subject for between one and two hours a week. This is a marked rise from just 38% support in 2012.
- In the 1 + 2 Initiative (the national framework for learning a second and third language) , over a third (37%) placed Gaelic in the top two languages that should be learnt, making Gaelic the third most popular language after Spanish (53%) and French (51%).
- The proportion of adults who say they can understand at least a little Gaelic has increased from 25% to 41%, and similarly 2012 and 2021, the proportion who say they can speak at least a few words of Gaelic has doubled from 15% to 30%.
- The proportion of adults who have seen Gaelic signage more than once a week has nearly doubled, from 14% in 2012 to 27% in 2021, and 70% reported that they had heard, read, or seen Gaelic in the media or via apps/online over the last 12 months.
- Nearly two thirds (65%) said that they would like to improve their Gaelic skills, and 70% stated that learning Gaelic gives someone a sense of achievement, contributing to the wellbeing agenda.
- There has been an increase in the proportion who feel too little is being spent on promoting the use of the Gaelic language (from 17% to 22%) and a decline in the proportion that feel too much is being spent on this (35% to 30%).
- There has been an increase of 10% in the number of people who would like the number of Gaelic speakers to rise in the future, to 56% from 46%.

The Education (Scotland) Act passed in 2016 contained several Gaelic provisions including:

- a duty on local authorities to promote Gaelic education;
- a parental right to a request for Gaelic medium primary education and a duty on the local authority to undertake a viability process in response to such a request; and,
- a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) to produce Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education. The Guidance will cover both Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education from pre-school through to secondary education.

The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, which was produced by a core group of bodies, has been in use since its publication in 2017 and is currently being revised and updated by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in light of experiences.

Similarly, the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic language plans is also being revised and updated.

Between April and July 2022, Bòrd na Gàidhlig consulted on the 4th National Gaelic Language Plan. This followed a series of pre-consultation meetings held online in May – June 2021. Over 250 responses to the draft were received. The draft Plan focuses on using and learning Gaelic, with a number of priority areas detailed for action. The Plan was scrutinised by a Scottish Parliamentary committee in June 2022 and it is expected that it will be published later this year.

The latest Gaelic education statistics can be found here.

[Schools in Scotland 2022: summary statistics - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

MG ALBA's Lèirsinn: A Route Map for Gaelic Media

Since the last report MG ALBA has published its five-year vision which sets the critical future role of Gaelic media in securing Gaelic for future generations. It focuses on key areas which seek to join up audience outcomes with language, economic and cultural outcomes.

It's stated aims are that:

- Gaelic media will reach 1 million users a week.
- Gaelic media will reach and engage with younger audiences.
- Gaelic media will attract and support up to 250,000 new users of Gaelic.

In return this will deliver

- Up to 300 new jobs
- A new generation of media entrepreneurs and participants
- A transformation in the business of international business for our supply sector

MG ALBA is working with strategic partners, funders, and our communities to determine the strategies which will realise this vision.

SpeakGaelic

SpeakGaelic was launched in October 2021, and is the most significant intervention in Gaelic language learning for a generation. A multiplatform learning tool for the digital era, which has been delivered in partnership and promoted across Scotland and beyond. Based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Language Learning, it the first all-inclusive tool for language learning that combines media with classroom resources.

The objective of SpeakGaelic is to transform the uptake and usage of Gaelic by providing a clear, comprehensive, and integrated structure for Gaelic language learning. The user has the option of experiencing SpeakGaelic in three different ways, all of which are integrated, but are also capable of being consumed discretely:

- taught through a SpeakGaelic course; and/or
- consumed in complementary BBC ALBA/BBC Radio nan Gàidheal media content; and/or
- self-guided through the SpeakGaelic website; and

all supported and enhanced by SpeakGaelic social media.

SpeakGaelic is a partnership initiative between MG ALBA, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the BBC. The SpeakGaelic initiative has been made possible through funding from The Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the partners.

Ofcom

Ofcom became regulator of the BBC in 2017. Ofcom is also the regulator for MG ALBA, who deliver BBC ALBA in partnership with the BBC.

A new operating licence came in to force in April 2023 with sections pertaining to Gaelic media, including BBC ALBA and Radio nan Gàidheal, addresses under public purpose 4.

Key elements relating to BBC ALBA are under public purpose 4.

In respect of BBC Alba, the BBC must ensure that:

the service includes live news programmes each weekday evening, including during Peak Viewing Time, and a longer news review at the weekends; and it provides programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language. for each of BBC Alba and BBC iPlayer, its plans to provide Gaelic programming and programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language. As part of this

explanation, the BBC must set out: planned hours of programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language; 4 planned hours of First-Run UK Originations programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language; planned hours of Gaelic programming; and planned hours of First-Run UK Originations of Gaelic programming.

Legislation at UK Parliament – Draft Media Bill & Broadcasting White Paper

Broadcasting is a reserved matter to the Westminster Government. The UK Government published a Broadcasting White Paper in 2022 to address issues in the media including prominence, public service broadcasting in the digital age and issues relating to Channel 4. MG ALBA engaged closely and there were references to the importance of Gaelic media in the White Paper:

The government recognises the hugely valuable contribution that MG ALBA makes to the lives and wellbeing of Gaelic speakers across Scotland and the UK, including through its unique partnership with the BBC in the provision of BBC ALBA. Such a partnership must ensure high quality, diverse Gaelic language content continues to be readily available so that Gaelic culture is protected in the years to come. We also recognise that certainty of future funding is important for MG ALBA being able to deliver for Gaelic speakers.

MG ALBA is the UK's Gaelic language media service, with the remit to ensure the provision of a wide and diverse range of high-quality programmes in the Gaelic language is made available to persons in Scotland. It makes an incredibly valuable contribution to the lives and wellbeing of Gaelic speakers across Scotland and the UK as a whole including through its partnership with the BBC in providing BBC ALBA. (extracts from UK Government Broadcasting White Paper, 2022)

The draft Media Bill was published in 2023 with no references to Gaelic media. The UK Government has acknowledged the importance of securing a sustainable future for Gaelic broadcasting. In that light, MG ALBA continues to urge the UK Government through its pre-legislative scrutiny to consider whether the absence of statutory provision for a Gaelic Public Service Broadcasting Service – which leaves Gaelic broadcasting without a funding mechanism or rights to prominence in the digital domain - is detrimental to the future sustainability of Gaelic broadcasting and, if so, is an omission which ought to be rectified.

UK Government acknowledged in the House of Commons that MG ALBA were raising 'legitimate concerns' regarding the future of Gaelic media yet Gaelic media was not included in the Draft Bill. MG ALBA are engaging in the pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill to seek the inclusion of Gaelic media.

In the period since the last report BBC ALBA made no progress towards its aim of 3 hours of first run per day outlined in the previous report, which had been identified as a benefit of the BBC Scotland channel. Currently it remains at 1.8 hours per day.

Ofcom has now required in public purpose 4 of the BBC Operating Licence that the BBC must set out plans in relation to BBC ALBA and the iPlayer, thereby acknowledging non-linear, in relation to planned hours of Gaelic programming; and planned hours of First-Run UK Originations of Gaelic programming. In respect of BBC ALBA, the BBC must ensure that the service includes live news programmes each weekday evening, including during Peak Viewing Time, and a longer news review at the weekends; and it provides programming aimed at those learning the Gaelic language.

CoE Recommendations No.1 - continue taking measures to strengthen Scottish Gaelic education, especially through the training of teachers and the production of teaching and learning materials.

The Scottish Government continues to provide funding and leadership in this area. Our funding streams have remained protected for Gaelic and Scots despite the difficult financial situation.

Despite impact from the pandemic to the number of students deferring their initial teacher training numbers are returning to the pre-pandemic levels. However, there is a continuing need to grow and diversify the opportunities to access teacher training courses and the Scottish Government continues to work with partners in this area.

Since the last report, the Scottish Government's STEM bursary scheme is now open to those who wish to teach subjects through the Gaelic language. We are also developing Leadership courses through Gaelic to ensure that not only Gaelic speaking teachers are able to undertake continued professional development through their language choice but also introducing modules to the English versions of the courses to ensure future leaders understand the importance of Gaelic Medium Sector.

The Scottish Government's Faster Rate of Progress initiative continues to support a number of workstreams, including Teacher Recruitment and Retention. Through this workstream, the General Teaching Council Scotland undertook a survey of teachers to identify if there were barriers to Gaelic registered teachers from teaching through the medium. This course was successful in identifying around 800 teachers across Scotland who would be interested in using their Gaelic if they were supported. Partners are now encouraging Local Authorities to make use of this hidden resource.

Advice and guidance

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides advice to Scottish Government and national education bodies relating to the needs of Gaelic-medium education. There are two key areas where this has been increased in the last five years.

Firstly, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided advice on a wide range of consultations relating to the impact of COVID on Scottish education and the proposed returns to school following the ending of lockdown. These focused on ensuring that the needs of pupils and families engaged in GME were recognised and addressed.

Secondly, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has engaged widely with the continuing work on Education Reform to articulate the opportunities and needs for Gaelic-medium education and all those involved in it. All advice provided is available via the Bòrd na Gàidhlig website.

Teachers

Teacher availability, as well as teacher retention, remains challenging. We are continuing to take measures to increase the number and retention of Gaelic teachers and other educational professionals. These include;

- Advice provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on solutions for recruitment and retention challenges in three Local Authority areas;
- Advice provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on further solutions to increase the number of people entering Initial Teacher Education;
- Immersion courses funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Opportunities for GTCS registered teachers currently teaching in English-medium to move to teaching GME. Promoted via online information sessions and dissemination of information to LA officers.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig collaboration with General Teaching Council of Scotland (GTCS) on advertising of immersion course funding and opportunities through Teaching Scotland magazine, aimed at respondents of GTCS Gaelic Survey who indicated an interest in transferring from English-medium to Gaelic-medium teaching.
- During 2019/20, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and GTCS collaborated to create a new resource which maps out the different routes to achieving professional qualifications for teaching. *So, You Want to Teach in Gaelic?* is the first such publication which informs people what support and courses are available to enable them to achieve their ambitions.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig Gaelic Education Grants Scheme supports c.50 student teachers annually undertaking Initial Teacher Education Courses or Early Years courses leading to GME entry, teachers in GME who are undertaking courses to develop their skills further and teachers not currently in GME who are looking to develop their Gaelic skills to move into the sector. In addition the Grants Scheme has been opened to Modern Languages Teachers on the pilot course at Strathclyde University (see note).
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig support for probationer teachers through an annual conference and a series of additional training events across the school year aimed at new GME teachers.
- Funding provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for the development of a Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services: Children and Young People" and "HNC Child Work" to be delivered through the medium of Gaelic.
- Funding has been provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to Newbattle Abbey to deliver a two-year course to help develop Gaelic skills among early years workers.
- Encouraging more effective strategic workforce planning between local authorities through, for example, direct engagement with all meetings of the national Gaelic Local Authority Network (the national network which brings together local authority Gaelic Language Lead Officers);
- working with a variety of Further and Higher Education Institutions to widen access to routes in to teaching through the medium of Gaelic; and,
- targeted advertising campaigns for teacher and early years staff using social media led by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.
- Annual programme of school visits from dedicated Teacher Recruitment Officer at Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and funded by the Scottish Government, encouraging young people to consider careers in GME. The dedicated officer also presents at careers fayres across the country and promotes the digital resources for practitioners and students available on the Bòrd na Gàidhlig website as padlets.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig is delivering an ongoing promotional campaign for careers in GME Primary, Secondary and Early Years called DèanDiofar built around a set of short videos of GME practitioners in all three sectors. The materials are available on the Bòrd na Gàidhlig website.

HM Inspectors continue to review the partnership working between universities and local authorities in providing Initial teacher education and highlighted effective examples of flexibility

and creativity that suit local circumstances. These include ensuring provision for initial training in GME in rural areas, high use of digital technology and opportunities to train as a teacher while also remaining in employment. Education Scotland and Stòrlann continue to provide workshop development of curriculum and resources for teachers at all levels.

Education Scotland (ES) continues to produce resources and provide advice to support the curriculum for Gaelic Education. Working with colleagues across the organisation, ES have hosted a range of professional learning sessions relating to curriculum, and sessions for seniors leaders in Gaelic Education to gain a better understanding of the curriculum for Gaelic. Education Scotland has facilitated opportunities for senior leaders to come together to share practice and network.

An Education Officer was appointed to ES, with support funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to lead on development and improvement in the Gaelic secondary sector. This appointment has been a fixed term contract for two years. The focus of this work with schools and local authorities has been on the promotion of Gaelic-positive ethos, raising attainment in literacy (3-18) and the use of pedagogical approaches to increase immersion. Education Scotland have published a number of resources that exemplify how to increase the proportion of the curriculum available through Gaelic at the secondary stages. This includes audio-visual support materials, on the National Improvement Hub focusing on areas such as Ethos, Curriculum, Using Tutor Time, and other Provision to Increase Immersion, Developing Literacy, Teaching Literature and Promoting Gaelic as an L3 within Associated Schools Groups. These materials are accessed on a regular basis and promoted via social media and events.

Education Scotland is engaged in ongoing work associated with taking forward the OECD recommendations and to support education reform. Officers participated in meetings to ensure the needs of Gaelic Education are considered from the outset. Education Scotland has responded to The Hayward Review consultation and the needs of the Gaelic sector formed part of organisation response. ES officers were invited to meet with Professor Hayward which was a further opportunity to engage about Gaelic.

Education Scotland has worked with staff at e-Sgoil to support their offer for Gaelic across Scotland.

Education Scotland continues to provide educational support and training to the Gaelic National Standardised Assessments (NSAs), Measaidhean Coitcheann Nàiseanta airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (MCNG) in the form of the quality assurance of materials to be used within the assessments. A panel of educational experts in GME from across the country have supported this work and ES officers have delivered professional learning opportunities to broaden and enhance understanding of standards within the Broad General Education.

Schools

We continue to maintain the Gaelic Schools Capital Fund and we have had recent discussions with Aberdeen City, Argyll and Bute, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Highland, and Renfrewshire Councils who are looking to develop their Gaelic provision.

Since the last report, there has been the establishment of further Gaelic medium primary provision throughout Scotland including the establishment of 2 new standalone Gaelic schools in Glasgow and Portree. Currently, Glasgow City Council is consulting on a fourth Gaelic School in its area.

Gaelic Medium Primary Education (GMPE) has been established in East Renfrewshire Council, North Ayrshire Council and Renfrewshire Council as a result of a successful application by parents using the provisions in the Education Scotland Act (2016), as outlined in the Statutory Guidance for Gaelic Education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta (national

GME parent association) have worked closely together to support all groups of parents who would like the opportunity for GME in their local area.

Resources

In recent years, the Scottish curriculum has been subject to major review. Education Scotland continues to produce resources and advice to support the new curriculum and improvement in Gaelic Education.

Stòrlann, the Gaelic resource agency, have produced a national framework for teaching Gaelic to learners in primary schools. It contains an overview of teacher training and a full suite of resources for introducing Gaelic as a 2nd or 3rd language. The first cohort of teachers were trained on the resource in 2015-16 and we are exploring options to create a universal approach to delivery. There has been interest from other local authorities looking to deliver their own training on the resource including Highland Council, Argyll and Bute and the Western Isles. There has also been the development of text to speech software for children with additional support needs and the development of a new website, Fileanta, containing a wealth of new resources for Gaelic medium teachers in secondary school. Its subjects include history, modern studies, literature, and music.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, along with partners Comunn na Gàidhlig and Fèisean nan Gàidheal, established an initiative to support GM pupils learning at home during lockdown. This included a weekly programme of online activities and resources to support the pupils and their families to maintain Gaelic language skills during that challenging time.

In addition, Bòrd na Gàidhlig established two funds specifically to support Gaelic organisations who provide a range of resources to address challenges caused by the pandemic.

In addition to the Scottish Government's funding of £530k, Bòrd na Gàidhlig also provide funding of c.£0.325m annually to Stòrlann, the Gaelic educational resource agency.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has funded the development and production of Giglets Gàidhlig project, which provides Gaelic texts together with supporting teacher and pupil resources, voice-overs, music, animations, and illustrations in a modern, digital, and cloud-based way. This is provided free to schools with GME and Higher Education Institutions with Gaelic Initial Teacher Education and allows pupils and teachers to access a continuously growing online library of graded texts and associated development resources in Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided funding to Education Scotland for the employment of a secondary curriculum development officer.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig supported the development of an online environmental awareness course through the medium of Gaelic in advance of COP26 being held in Glasgow in 2021.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided funding to:

- Heriott-Watt University to carry out research into the reading skills of pupils in Gaelic-medium education compared with those in English-medium education;
- University of Edinburgh to research and test new resources for children in Gaelic-medium education that will recognise if they have special developmental needs and support them if they do.

In addition, BBC ALBA has a wide range of media resources available through its platforms, in particular Youtube and iPlayer, which contribute to the learning experience of children in schools. This was extremely important during the pandemic when the importance of digital media resource was spotlighted. BBC ALBA was able to ensure that media was a key tenet of learning throughout that period and continues to be so.

PART II

Article 7 – Objectives and Principles

Para 1. In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

Para 1(a) the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;

Scots

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Scots Language community on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation.

In addition, work has been carried out to refresh the Scots Language Policy which was published in 2015. The policy sets out the Scottish Government's position on Scots, our aims for the language and the practical steps we will take towards fulfilling these aims. The refresh will be completed once the Language Bill is realised.

The North-East of Scotland is home to an exceptional heritage of language, music, ballad and song, story, history, and lore, alongside the dynamic creativity of those who live and work there. A key element in this heritage is North-East Scots (generally known as "Doric"), the expressive tongue in which many North East fowk speak, think, and feel.

The Doric Board (North-East Traditions and Language - NETAL) was founded in 2018 who wished to create an organisation devoted to the promotion and support of the culture and language of the North east of Scotland. The Scottish Government has recognised the importance of this organisation to the Doric language and has core funded since its inception. The main aim of the Doric Board is, through advocacy, campaigning, education, public programming, funding, and sustained research, to enhance linguistic and cultural confidence in the North East, being a powerful voice for social, and economic regeneration, and a driver towards a national Scots Language Board. The Board aims to create and support a sustainable, dynamic future for Doric as a vibrant language, increasingly respected across the region in the context of a diverse and open society.

The Doric Board supports these aims by promoting and developing Doric as an integral part of the region's heritage, identity, and cultural life. Over many decades Doric has suffered, like the Scots language generally, from being seen as somehow lacking in value. However, the Doric Board works towards promoting and facilitating access to the regions cultural treasures through its language and increase the acceptance of Doric in education, the workplace and in the media.

Scots Radio is a monthly online audio programme produced to broadcast quality that is presented in the Scots language. Since its small beginnings in 2013, it has developed different strands to meet changing demands; whilst also continually growing the team to meet the new and different challenges ensuring that each member is multi-skilled and confident to contribute to the programme content. Each episode lasts roughly one hour and follows a magazine format with contributors from the many different sides of Scottish life showcasing the best of the living traditions and contemporary events - interspersed with music tracks from the latest Scottish releases and links from the studio. Since the time of the last report, the Scottish Government has taken over core funding of the project.

Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Gaelic Language community on what it saw as priority areas for the

language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation.

Between April and July 2022, Bòrd na Gàidhlig consulted on the 4th National Gaelic Language Plan. This followed a series of pre-consultation meetings held online in May – June 2021. Over 250 responses were received. The draft Plan focuses on using and learning Gaelic, with a number of priority areas detailed for action. These include communities where much cultural activity takes place, and arts, screen and creative industries. The Plan was scrutinised by a Scottish Parliamentary committee in June 2022 and it is expected that it will be published later this year.

To date around 70 public bodies and local authorities have now developed Gaelic Language Plans. These contain a variety of commitments to support Gaelic language and culture. Recent additions have included Scottish Land Commission and Scottish Enterprise. Creative Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and VisitScotland, all of which have responsibilities relating to cultural wealth have current statutory Gaelic language plans as do the University of the Highlands and Islands, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided funding support for the impact analysis carried out by Glasgow City Council on the Gaelic economy. This considered cultural events and activities and their impact on both the economy and wellbeing.

An Commun continue to deliver the Royal National Mod, as well as Local Mod, which celebrate the rich linguistic culture of the language. These events are staple in the Scottish calendar attracting thousands of visitors and participants annually and with an economic benefit, from the Royal National Mod, of around £2-5m for a week's activity in the chosen host area.

Para (1)(b). the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;

Scots

The Scottish Government has taken steps to increase the budgets for Scots organisations and openly encourages the use of the language through our policies.

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Gaelic and Scots Language communities on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation.

Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government has taken steps to increase the budgets for Gaelic organisations and openly encourages the use of the language through our policies.

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Gaelic and Scots Language communities on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation.

Para (1)(c). the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;

Scots

The Scottish Government continues to fund the Scots Language Centre (SLC), increasing their budget to £90k per annum in 2022/23. The SLC has a number of duties in the promotion of Scots and since the last report they have been involved in raising awareness particularly

around the Census, Through 2021, with the support of a grant from the Scottish Government, we have developed a brand new AyeCan.com website to support census respondents in the Scots language questions of Scotland's Census 2022. Initially launched in 2011, the SLC have completely redesigned and rewritten the textual content of the site to suit the expectations of a modern audience. In addition, SLC have produced a wide range of explanatory and exemplary videos going through Scots as it is spoken and written by people from all the dialect areas of Scotland. This will be further supported by a social media campaign raising awareness of the question and the support website.

The Scots Scriever post within the National Library of Scotland and this post continues. This partnership appointment between Creative Scotland and the National Library of Scotland is part time over 2 years and the purpose of the Scriever residency is specifically: 1) to produce original, creative work in Scots (any variant or dialect) in any genre or discipline throughout the tenure, and, 2) to have explicit responsibility for raising the profile, understanding and appreciation of creative work in the Scots language, including that held within the National Library's collections.

The Scottish Government has recently funded a pilot project to develop a 1-day awareness session focussing on Gaelic, Scots, and British Sign Language. This will be available to public bodies in 2018.

Scottish Gaelic

The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 contained a number of Gaelic provisions including a duty The Education (Scotland) Act passed in 2016 contained a number of Gaelic provisions including:

- a duty on local authorities to promote Gaelic education;
- a parental right to a request for Gaelic medium primary education and a duty on the local authority to undertake a viability process in response to such a request; and,
- a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BnG) to produce Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education. The Guidance will cover both Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education from pre-school through to secondary education.

The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, which was produced by a core group of bodies, has been in use since its publication in 2017 and is currently being revised and updated by Bòrd na Gàidhlig in light of experiences.

The right of a parent to request GM primary education has been used on a number of occasion successfully however the Scottish Government is considering steps to ensure that the process is not overly burdensome on parents.

Para (1)(d) the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;

Scots

The Scottish Parliament has seen the reformation of its Cross-Party Group on Scots. Supported by the Scots Language Centre. This is welcome step and is widely agreed as a step forward in the recognition of the language by the Scots community.

The Scottish Government's Scots policy outlines its commitment to Scots and both the Scottish Government and Education Scotland continue to accept any form of communication in Scots. Both organisations also endeavour to respond in Scots to correspondence received in Scots. We also continue to offer Ministers sections of their speech in Scots when speaking at Scots language events.

The Scriever has been raising the profile of Scots through school visits, workshops, and public events for all ages. This largely takes place through the medium of Scots.

The Scots Language Centre commissioned a series of original texts in Scots, as well as a document intended to support those who wish to write in Scots, in a project titled, 'Scots Warks'. As part of the support for those within the Scots-speaking community who wish to write in Scots, members of Scots Language centre staff and participating writers supported Scots Wikipedia in the form of several 'Wiki-drives' which involved editing existing text on Scots Wikipedia.

The Scots Language Centre produced a Map of Scotland, with place names in Scots, for those members of the public who wish to recognise the legitimate use of Scots in this manner.

The Scots Language Centre produced an information campaign to engage and assist Scottish people in answering the language questions within the 2022 census, resulting in a subsite titled 'AyeCan'.

Scots Hoose is a Scots language education project for learning and creativity for children and young people. The Scots Hoose project is for all, with particular focus on young Scots speakers living in so-called areas of multiple deprivation.

It is the experience of the Scots Hoose project that young Scots speakers living in Scotland's poorest communities can benefit significantly in terms of literacy, self-esteem, and educational attainment when they have increased meaningful opportunities to read and learn in their own language.

Scots Hoose is funded by the Scottish Government. Its mission is to deliver outreach and produce resources for Early Years, Primary and Secondary settings for all of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Scots Hoose Milestones 2021 - 2023

- a) The print edition of the free Scots Hoose comic Eejit Street offered in Spring 2023 in association with Yaldi Books and with free postage saw uptake from over 300 schools.
- b) The 2022 Scots Hoose online resource WEE TV – an engaging children's TV style series of videos – has been viewed and enjoyed by thousands of pupils in Early Years and Primary.
- c) Scots Hoose delivered in 2021 a ground-breaking animation of the popular Scots song Coulter's Candy for Early Years.
- d) Scots Hoose has made available in high-quality graphic-novel style format often neglected Scots classics such as Sir Patrick Spens, Wanderin Wullie's Tale, the Tale o Tod Lapraik, and an innovative new version of Tam o Shanter for Secondary pupils.
- e) Scots Hoose continues to deliver outreach to schools in Scots speaking communities across Scotland, observing increased levels of engagement in learning in those pupils experiencing Scots in the classroom for the first time.

In 2022, with funding from the Scottish Government, Yaldi Books, a new publisher dedicated to the production and distribution of free Scots language books to all Scottish schools, was set up. Early in 2023, Yaldi (in partnership with digital resource provider Scots Hoose) produced its first book, a Scots language comic titled "Eejit Street". To date, over 9000 copies of the

comic have been distributed free of charge to over 300 schools, libraries, and education providers across Scotland.

Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan has been revised and sets out how it will engage with the Gaelic community and how it will support the language through its policies.

[Gaelic language plan 2022 to 2027 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/gaelic-language-plan-2022-to-2027/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

Education Scotland published the second iteration of its Gaelic Language Plan, 2022-2027. It forms part of the organisation's corporate planning and demonstrates how developing Gaelic Education will continue to be supported.

Between April and July 2022, Bòrd na Gàidhlig consulted on the 4th National Gaelic Language Plan. This followed a series of pre-consultation meetings held online in May – June 2021. Over 250 responses were received. The draft Plan focuses on using and learning Gaelic, with a number of priority areas detailed for action. These include communities where much cultural activity takes place, and arts, screen and creative industries. The Plan was scrutinised by a Scottish Parliamentary committee in June 2022 and it is expected that it will be published later this year.

Some 70 public authorities in Scotland have Gaelic language plans. These are renewed and updated on a cyclical basis and all have commitments to increase the use, learning and promotion of Gaelic. 30 out of the 32 Local Authorities in Scotland are amongst these bodies as are the national police, fire and rescue and ambulance services.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has funded a wide range of activities to encourage the use of Gaelic in private life. These include social media campaigns, awareness raising and confidence building, a national week to encourage everybody in Scotland and those Gaelic speakers and learners overseas to use the language, events and resources for families and others to use and learn Gaelic more in the home.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides support for:

- employment of a Gaelic Communities Co-ordinator to build links between Gaelic speakers attending UHI colleges.
- employment of a Family Learning Officer to specifically support parents of children in the early stages of GME in Glasgow
- employment of an Early Years Officer to co-ordinate and expand early years provision in City of Edinburgh.

Para (1)(e) the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;

Scots

The Scottish Government continues to work in association with the British Irish Council in relation to the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Language Work Sector.

Scottish Gaelic

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Bòrd na Gàidhlig works in partnership with the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland through the Colmcille initiative.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig initiated Bliadhna Cholmcille 1500, the year-long celebration of the birth of St Columba. This involved partnership with bodies in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Canada.

Para (1)(f) the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;

Scots

In recognition of the importance of education in supporting the Scots language, the Scottish Government has increased its support for a number of key organisations involved in supporting this sector. Many, such as Scots Radio, Doric Board and Scots Hoose are new to receiving any Scottish Government support.

Education Scotland employs a Scots language Co-ordinator who works to develop materials, promote, and make Scots language more readily available in schools.

The Scots Language Centre consulted with teachers and learners to develop a sub-site, titled 'The Scots Learning Centre', consisting of online and interactive learning materials for learners aged 3-18. The outcomes of each activity align with Curriculum for Excellence.

The Scots Language Centre employed a GTCS-registered teacher to provide outreach to nurseries, schools, and community groups. The teacher leads Bookbug sessions around the country and has worked with organisations such as the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, National Library of Scotland, Glasgow Life, Culture Perth and Kinross, Edinburgh Book Festival, and various local education authorities to provide song, story, and rhyme sessions for children in early-years settings. The Scots Language Centre's education provision also involves providing teacher training for organisations such as Glasgow City Council, SCILT and University of Edinburgh.

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The Scots Language Centre has also been working in support of Scots education. This year will see the completion of the phase II development of the games, animations, and resources for the Scots Learning Centre. This includes example videos covering all the traditional dialect regions, more games and curriculum linked readings and lessons relating to set Scots texts.

Promotion of our material and all our educational resources will be online and as part of an outreach programme conducted by our education specialist. In support of this Laura is now a trained Bookbug leader and will be providing sessions for early years learners all over Scotland.

A Scottish Studies Award and a Scots Language Award are available from SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority) for secondary schools. The Scottish Studies Award may contain elements of Gaelic and/or Scots, depending on the learner's choice. The Scots Language Award focuses on the language and its history. The SQA has also introduced a revised syllabus for Higher English. As part of this, a Scottish text must be included. This may contain elements of Scots or Gaelic languages. These Awards have now been recognised by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and can support students' entry applications to further education.

Scottish Language Dictionaries has developed an app, downloadable to smartphones, containing the Essential Scots Dictionary have also published a new Concise Scots Dictionary 2 and are working to deliver a new traveller/Scots dictionary.

The Scottish Government continues funding for the Association for Scottish Literary Studies who produce a number of literature resources for teachers pertaining to both Scots and Gaelic. They have also continued to support the profession by hosting conferences aimed at

developing teachers knowledge around the new Higher English syllabus and the Scottish texts contained therein.

Scottish Gaelic

The Education (Scotland) Act passed in 2016 contained a number of Gaelic provisions including: a duty on local authorities to promote Gaelic education; a parental right to request Gaelic medium primary education for their child and a duty on the local authority to undertake a viability process in response to such a request; and a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig to produce Statutory Guidance for Gaelic education. The Guidance has been in place since 2017 and is being revised to reflect changes in the education sector in past 6 years.

Education Scotland (ES) continues to produce resources and provide advice to support the curriculum for Gaelic Education. Working with colleagues across the organisation, ES have hosted a range of professional learning sessions relating to curriculum, and sessions for seniors leaders in Gaelic Education to gain a better understanding of the curriculum for Gaelic. Education Scotland has facilitated opportunities for senior leaders to come together to share practice and network.

An Education Officer was appointed to ES, with support funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to lead on development and improvement in the Gaelic secondary sector. This appointment has been a fixed term contract for two years. The focus of this work with schools and local authorities has been on the promotion of Gaelic-positive ethos, raising attainment in literacy (3-18) and the use of pedagogical approaches to increase immersion. Education Scotland have published a number of resources that exemplify how to increase the proportion of the curriculum available through Gaelic at the secondary stages. This includes audio-visual support materials, on the National Improvement Hub focusing on areas such as Ethos, Curriculum, Using Tutor Time, and other Provision to Increase Immersion, Developing Literacy, Teaching Literature and Promoting Gaelic as an L3 within Associated Schools Groups. These materials are accessed on a regular basis and promoted via social media and events.

Education Scotland is engaged in ongoing work associated with taking forward the OECD recommendations and to support education reform. Officers participated in meetings to ensure the needs of Gaelic Education are considered from the outset. Education Scotland has responded to The Hayward Review consultation and the needs of the Gaelic sector formed part of organisation response. ES officers were invited to meet with Professor Hayward which was a further opportunity to engage about Gaelic.

Education Scotland continues to provide educational support and training to the Gaelic National Standardised Assessments (NSAs), Measaidhean Coitcheann Nàiseanta airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (MCNG) in the form of the quality assurance of materials to be used within the assessments. A panel of educational experts in GME from across the country have supported this work and ES officers have delivered professional learning opportunities to broaden and enhance understanding of standards within the Broad General Education

In addition, Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides advice and support to Local Authorities on expanding their secondary GME curriculum offer including advice regarding deployment of current GME staff to increase Gaelic offer in schools.

Also, in support of teacher training, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has funded Strathclyde University to deliver an Additional Teaching Qualification which will enable Secondary Modern Languages teachers to provide courses for Gaelic learners as part of the modern languages curriculum on offer in their schools.

Para (1)(g) the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;

Scots

The Open University are currently producing a teacher training resource for Scots language. This will be available online, free of charge, to adults wishing to increase their knowledge of the Scots language. Although it is aimed primarily at teachers looking to deliver Scots in the classroom, it will contain information available free of charge to members of the public wishing to develop their Scots language skills. This is being piloted and it is hoped that it will provide a CPD opportunity for teachers who wish to use Scots in the classroom.

Scottish Gaelic

Stòrlann has created and published a new expansive resource for the furtherance of teaching of history and culture in GM. Settings. Gàidhlig ann an Alba (Gaelic in Scotland) is a multi-topic online resource. A version has also been made available in English, for the benefit of Gaelic learners and Parents of pupils in Gaelic Medium education.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides funding to a wide range of resources to enable non-speakers to learn Gaelic. These include funding for:

- Delivery of Gaelic language courses across most of Scotland by local authorities, higher and further education institutions; and community groups;
- Gaelic officers in public bodies who promote access to learning
- Employment of a digital officer at LearnGaelic
- Funding of the development of the European Common Framework of Reference for Gaelic
- The development of teaching and learning materials for SpeakGaelic;
- Ongoing funding of Faclair na Gàidhlig, Tobar an Dualchais and Ainmean-àite na h-Alba;
- A Gaelic Youth Champion for the Highlands to promote Gaelic within and out with school;
- Delivering Gaelic classes and conversation sessions to parents with children in GME and for adults in the community across the Highlands;

Funded by the Scottish Government, SpeakGaelic was launched in October 2021, the most significant intervention in Gaelic language learning for a generation. A multiplatform learning tool for the digital era, which has been delivered in partnership and promoted across Scotland and beyond. This is the first time we have a common standard for Gaelic learning, based on the CEFR scheme. With key academic input from Aberdeen University, Glasgow University and academic partner, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, this is an integrated set of resources that will transform the opportunities for language learning.

The objective of SpeakGaelic is to transform the uptake and usage of Gaelic by providing a clear, comprehensive, and integrated structure for Gaelic language learning. The user has the option of experiencing SpeakGaelic in three different ways, all of which are integrated, but are also capable of being consumed discretely:

- taught through a SpeakGaelic course; and/or
- consumed in complementary BBC ALBA/BBC Radio nan Gàidheal media content; and/or
- self-guided through the SpeakGaelic website; and

all supported and enhanced by SpeakGaelic social media.

Para (1)(h) the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;

Scots

The Scottish Government has created a Scots Advisory Education Group to consider what steps are needed to help support Scots at all levels of education. This Group has only met once at this time and will be meeting again after this report is submitted.

Glasgow University are undertaking research into Scots and are considering how Scots courses can be developed.

Scottish Gaelic

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has commissioned the development of grammar guidance and the co-ordinating of developments in the corpus of Scottish Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided funding to:

- Heriott-Watt University to carry out research into the reading skills of pupils in Gaelic-medium education compared with those in English-medium education;
- University of Edinburgh to research and test new resources for children in Gaelic-medium education that will recognise if they have additional developmental needs and support them if they do;
- University of Edinburgh for Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig conference
- University of Glasgow to research how Gaelic speakers in Glasgow meet and use Gaelic together in different spaces (both physically and online) in the city;
- University of Edinburgh to develop a digital resource that can correct Gaelic text/speech in accordance with GOC rules;
- Create a national association for Gaelic students at different universities and colleges to bring them together for events and to discuss opportunities open to them as students with Gaelic, led by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

Para 1(i) The promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

Scots

The Scots Language Centre and Scottish Qualifications Agency have both worked with Ulster Scots groups in Northern Ireland.

Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government continues to provide support for Gaelic students in Nova Scotia through a Bursary Scheme. We are also working with the Office of Gaelic Affairs in Nova Scotia to promote their Gaelic month of May.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has worked with partners to co-ordinate a support package for the new Gaelic-medium Primary school in Nova Scotia Taigh Sgoile na Drochaide, the first ever GME Primary service outwith Scotland.

There is an ongoing partnership between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaelige by means of the Colmcille partnership.

Para 2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not already done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the

rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages.

Scots

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Scots Language community on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation however we expect to look at strengthening rights of speakers.

In addition, work has been carried out to refresh the Scots Language Policy which was published in 2015. The policy sets out the Scottish Government's position on Scots, our aims for the language and the practical steps we will take towards fulfilling these aims. The refresh will be completed once the Language Bill is realised.

Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government carried out a consultation from August to December 2022 in which it sought views from the Gaelic Language community on what it saw as priority areas for the language. These responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of any future language legislation however we expect to look at strengthening rights of speakers.

The Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan has been revised and sets out how it will engage with the Gaelic community and how it will support the language through its policies.

[Gaelic language plan 2022 to 2027 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Education Scotland published the second iteration of its Gaelic Language Plan, 2022-2027. It forms part of the organisation's corporate planning and demonstrates how developing Gaelic Education will continue to be supported.

Bord na Gàidhlig works with the public authorities who have Gaelic language plans to increase the recognition of Gaelic as a desirable or essential skill in staff recruitment.

Para (3) The parties undertake to promote by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

The Scottish Government openly supports Gaelic and Scots and makes it clear that there is no place Scotland for bigotry of any kind.

Para (4) In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

Scots

The Scottish Parliament has seen the reformation of its Cross-Party Group on Scots. Supported by the Scots Language Centre. This is welcome step and is widely agreed as a step forward in the recognition of the language by the Scots community.

The Scottish Government has created a Scots Advisory Education Group to consider what steps are needed to help support Scots at all levels of education. This Group has only met once at this time and will be meeting again after this report is submitted.

Scottish Gaelic

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has an important role in providing Ministerial advice across a wide range of areas and issues. It delivers this function through a variety of mechanisms including meetings, written advice and responses to national consultations.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides secretariat to the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Gaelic.

PART III

For each regional or minority language chosen at the moment of ratification, as follows from paragraph 2 of Article 2 of the Charter, please indicate how the undertakings have been implemented (see Appendix), focusing in particular on the following aspects:

- Please provide information on new developments that have occurred since the last monitoring round.

With reference to the most recent evaluation report of the Committee of Experts concerning the implementation of the Charter in your State:

- For undertakings for which the Committee of Experts did not have sufficient information to properly evaluate the implementation, please provide detailed information;

- For undertakings which the Committee of Experts considered were not fulfilled, please indicate what steps your state has taken, for each regional or minority language, to implement these undertakings;

- For the encouragements and box recommendations of the Committee of Experts, please give a detailed account of the legal and/or practical measures that your State has taken.

Scottish Gaelic

Recommendation - continue taking measures to strengthen Scottish Gaelic education, especially through the training of teachers and the production of teaching and learning materials;

Article 8 – Education

Para 1(a)(i) To make available pre-school education in Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government has undertaken a consultation of proposals for a new strategy for Gaelic Education. The responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of future Languages legislation.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of its support to the Gaelic Language and has maintained its resource and capital budgets for Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner education.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig supports Local Authorities and community organisations to make available pre-school education in Gaelic. This is achieved through direct funding for:

- The national parents' advice and support organisation, Comunn nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta), which employs development and early-years officers as well as supporting families engaged in GME and the provision of a one-stop website for using Gaelic in the home and early years;
- Community organisations which run early-years groups; and providing insurance for these groups;
- Funding for Local Authorities Early Years and Family Officers in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other locations;
- Funding towards the development of a Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services: Children and Young People" and "HNC Child Work" to be delivered through the medium of Gaelic;

- Funding to Newbattle Abbey to deliver a two-year course to help develop Gaelic skills among early years workers.
- The employment of a member of the Bòrd's Education Team whose remit includes advice and support for GME Early Years' Development.

The Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, which is currently being revised, includes advice on Gaelic medium early learning and childcare. In addition, the Bòrd produced separate advice on the sector, and it can be found here;

[Pre-School – Bòrd na Gàidhlig \(gaidhlig.scot\)](#)

[Gaelic-Medium-Early-Learning-Childcare-Guidance-Stuireadh-Trath-Irean-GE.pdf \(gaidhlig.scot\)](#)

Bòrd na Gàidhlig compiles and publishes annually a comprehensive statistical overview of progress in GME. In addition, Bòrd na Gàidhlig has been working closely with Scottish Government, providing professional advice and support to ensure national statistics relating to GME and Gaelic Learners' Education are appropriately gathered.

Para 1(b)(i) To make available primary education in Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government has undertaken a consultation of proposals for a new strategy for Gaelic Education. The responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of future Languages legislation.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of its support to the Gaelic Language and has maintained its resource and capital budgets for Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner education.

Gaelic Medium Education

The Education Scotland Act passed in 2016 contained a number of Gaelic provisions including: a duty on local authorities to promote Gaelic education; a parental right to a request for Gaelic medium primary education and a duty on the local authority to undertake a viability process in response to such a request; and a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig to produce Statutory Guidance for Gaelic education.

There has been the establishment of further Gaelic medium primary provision throughout Scotland including the establishment of 2 new standalone Gaelic schools in Glasgow and Portree in 2018. Glasgow City Council is currently consulting on the potential for a fourth Gaelic school in the City.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with Local Authorities, primarily through their Gaelic language plans, to encourage them to increase the availability of GME and Gaelic learner education. Support is provided for this by the delivery of information sessions to families who are considering GME. Other Bòrd na Gàidhlig activity to support growth in education is through promotion of teaching and early years careers, professional support and resources which increase Gaelic skills and the access to materials appropriate for primary education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided advice on GM primary education to all national consultations relating to education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided funding to students undertaking Initial Teacher Education, bursaries for those who have chosen to change career to become teachers and funding to enable qualified teachers to undertake immersion courses to become GM teachers.

Stòrlann expands menu of professional learning resources exponentially on a year-on-year basis. Access to all Gaelic education professional development courses is available online.

Continued expansion of Gaelic resources at all levels and stages.

Development of Gaelic learning resources for use in extracurricular activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the John Muir Award for outdoor and environmental engagement initiatives.

Phase 2 of Gaelic GLPS resource Go! Gaelic was completed and is now used as a central resource in schools. Stòrlann has provided additional courses for existing Gaelic Learner teachers who wish to deliver the resource in schools.

Education Scotland (ES) continues to produce resources and provide advice to support the curriculum for Gaelic Education. Working with colleagues across the organisation, ES have hosted a range of professional learning sessions relating to curriculum, and sessions for seniors leaders in Gaelic Education to gain a better understanding of the curriculum for Gaelic. Education Scotland has facilitated opportunities for senior leaders to come together to share practice and network.

An Education Officer was appointed to ES, with support funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to lead on development and improvement in the Gaelic secondary sector. This appointment has been a fixed term contract for two years. The focus of this work with schools and local authorities has been on the promotion of Gaelic-positive ethos, raising attainment in literacy (3-18) and the use of pedagogical approaches to increase immersion. Education Scotland have published a number of resources that exemplify how to increase the proportion of the curriculum available through Gaelic at the secondary stages. This includes audio-visual support materials, on the National Improvement Hub focusing on areas such as Ethos, Curriculum, Using Tutor Time, and other Provision to Increase Immersion, Developing Literacy, Teaching Literature and Promoting Gaelic as an L3 within Associated Schools Groups. These materials are accessed on a regular basis and promoted via social media and events.

Education Scotland is engaged in ongoing work associated with taking forward the OECD recommendations and to support education reform. Officers participated in meetings to ensure the needs of Gaelic Education are considered from the outset. Education Scotland has responded to The Hayward Review consultation and the needs of the Gaelic sector formed part of organisation response. ES officers were invited to meet with Professor Hayward which was a further opportunity to engage about Gaelic.

Education Scotland continues to provide educational support and training to the Gaelic National Standardised Assessments (NSAs), Measaidhean Coitcheann Nàiseanta airson Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (MCNG) in the form of the quality assurance of materials to be used within the assessments. A panel of educational experts in GME from across the country have supported this work and ES officers have delivered professional learning opportunities to broaden and enhance understanding of standards within the Broad General Education.

Gaelic Learner Education

The Scottish Government continues to support the Gaelic Learners in the Primary School programme. Ensuring teachers are afforded the opportunity of CPD in Gaelic while increasing the opportunities of our young people to learn, or engage, with the language.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with Local Authorities, primarily through their Gaelic language plans, to encourage them to increase the availability of Gaelic learner education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided funding to enable existing modern languages teachers to undertake an Additional Teaching Qualification to increase the number of teachers able to deliver Gaelic learner education.

SpeakGaelic, with its range of media resources, is now available to provide an immersive language learning experience for Gaelic learners. This will be integrated into community learning experience and supported by a physical book resource to ensure accessibility and choice for learners.

Para 1(c)(i) To make available secondary education in Scottish Gaelic

Gaelic Medium Education

The Scottish Government has undertaken a consultation of proposals for a new strategy for Gaelic Education. The responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of future Languages legislation.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of its support to the Gaelic Language and has maintained its resource and capital budgets for Gaelic Medium and Gaelic Learner education.

Scottish Government and Education Scotland continue to fund e-Sgoil and to work in support of their offer for Gaelic across Scotland.

Education Scotland (ES) continues to produce resources and provide advice to support the curriculum for Gaelic Education. Working with colleagues across the organisation, ES have hosted a range of professional learning sessions relating to curriculum, and sessions for senior leaders in Gaelic Education to gain a better understanding of the curriculum for Gaelic. Education Scotland has facilitated opportunities for senior leaders to come together to share practice and network.

Education Scotland is engaged in ongoing work associated with taking forward the OECD recommendations and to support education reform. Officers participated in meetings to ensure the needs of Gaelic Education are considered from the outset. Education Scotland has responded to The Hayward Review consultation and the needs of the Gaelic sector formed part of organisation response. ES officers were invited to meet with Professor Hayward which was a further opportunity to engage about Gaelic.

An Education Officer was appointed to ES, with support funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, to lead on development and improvement in the Gaelic secondary sector. This appointment has been a fixed term contract for two years. The focus of this work with schools and local authorities has been on the promotion of Gaelic-positive ethos, raising attainment in literacy (3-18) and the use of pedagogical approaches to increase immersion. Education Scotland have published a number of resources that exemplify how to increase the proportion of the curriculum available through Gaelic at the secondary stages. This includes audio-visual support materials, on the National Improvement Hub focusing on areas such as Ethos, Curriculum, Using Tutor Time, and other Provision to Increase Immersion, Developing Literacy, Teaching Literature and Promoting Gaelic as an L3 within Associated Schools Groups. These materials are accessed on a regular basis and promoted via social media and events.

Gaelic Learner Education

Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with Local Authorities, primarily through their Gaelic language plans, to encourage them to increase the availability of Gaelic learner education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided funding to enable existing modern languages teachers to undertake an Additional Teaching Qualification to increase the number of teachers able to deliver Gaelic learner education.

The Scottish Government is involved with ongoing encouragement and support to local authorities for the promotion and establishment of Gaelic learner education in their areas. This includes offers of support with costs for teacher training and the provision of resources.

Para 1(d)(iv) To apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient.

The Scottish Government has undertaken a consultation of proposals for a new strategy for Gaelic Education. The responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of future Languages legislation.

The Education (Scotland) Act passed in 2016 contained a number of Gaelic provisions including:

- a duty on local authorities to promote Gaelic education;
- a parental right to a request for Gaelic medium primary education and a duty on the local authority to undertake a viability process in response to such a request; and,
- a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig to produce Statutory Guidance for Gaelic education. The Guidance covers both Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education from pre-school through to secondary education.

The Scottish Government continues to support Local Authorities and parents in their consideration of Gaelic education for young people across Scotland.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig publishes and promotes the Statutory Guidance for Gaelic education. The Guidance covers both Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education from pre-school through to secondary education. Bòrd na Gàidhlig also responds to requests for GMPE made under the Statutory Guidance and responds to Local Authority consultations on school catchment areas for GME as well as other matters relating to the promotion and delivery of Gaelic education by Local Authorities.

Para 1(e)(iii) if, by reason of the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, sub-paragraphs i and iii cannot be applied, to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in relevant regional or minority languages or of facilities for the study relevant regional or minority languages as university or higher education subjects.

The Scottish Government continues to support the Gaelic College, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and provides annually funding to the college of £1.180m. In addition, we provide further funding for projects including the STREAP teacher education course which is based at the college.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig work with a number of universities, including Universities of Glasgow, Aberdeen, Strathclyde and Highlands and Islands, through their statutory Gaelic Language Plans, with specific aims and commitments.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig also works directly with particular universities to provide support and advice on developing new GME ITE courses (e.g., University of Aberdeen).

Bòrd na Gàidhlig compiles annual data on student teachers on all GME ITE courses which enables detailed tracking of progress.

Para 1(f)(iii) If the public authorities have no direct competence in the field of adult education, to favour and/or encourage the offering of such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides advice and support to public bodies to encourage and develop Gaelic language learning for adults. This is delivered through a range of mechanisms including commitments in Gaelic language plans, support to further and higher education providers to develop resources for adult language learning and delivery of learning; support to community groups to encourage, promote and deliver adult language learning through a range of classes, events, and online activities.

SpeakGaelic was launched in October 2021, and is the most significant intervention in Gaelic language learning for a generation. A multiplatform learning tool for the digital era, which has been delivered in partnership and promoted across Scotland and beyond. Based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Language Learning, it the first all-inclusive tool for language learning that combines media with classroom resources.

The objective of SpeakGaelic is to transform the uptake and usage of Gaelic by providing a clear, comprehensive, and integrated structure for Gaelic language learning. The user has the option of experiencing SpeakGaelic in three different ways, all of which are integrated, but are also capable of being consumed discretely:

- taught through a SpeakGaelic course; and/or
- consumed in complementary BBC ALBA/BBC Radio nan Gàidheal media content; and/or
- self-guided through the SpeakGaelic website; and

all supported and enhanced by SpeakGaelic social media.

SpeakGaelic is a partnership initiative between MG ALBA, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the BBC. The SpeakGaelic initiative has been made possible through funding from The Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the partners.

Para 1(g) to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with Local Authorities and public bodies to promote the understanding of Gaelic history and culture primarily through Gaelic language plans (GLPs) and funding assistance. Since the last report there has been a number of LAs and new public bodies developing GLPs for the first time, leading to an increase in the promotion and understanding of the place of Gaelic in Scottish society.

Para 1(h) to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party.

The Scottish Government continues to provide funding and leadership in this area. Our funding streams have remained protected for Gaelic and Scots despite the difficult financial situation.

Despite impact from the pandemic to the number of students deferring their initial teacher training numbers are returning to the pre-pandemic levels. However, there is a continuing need to grow and diversify the opportunities to access teacher training courses and the Scottish Government continues to work with partners in this area.

Since the last report, the Scottish Government's STEM bursary scheme is now open to those who wish to teach subjects through the Gaelic language. We are also developing Leadership courses

through Gaelic to ensure that not only Gaelic speaking teachers are able to undertake continued professional development through their language choice but also introducing modules to the English versions of the courses to ensure future leaders understand the importance of Gaelic Medium Sector.

The Scottish Government's Faster Rate of Progress initiative continues to support a number of workstreams, including Teacher Recruitment and Retention. Through this workstream, the General Teaching Council Scotland undertook a survey of teachers to identify if there were barriers to Gaelic registered teachers from teaching through the medium. This course was successful in identifying around 800 teachers across Scotland who would be interested in using their Gaelic if they were supported. Partners are now encouraging Local Authorities to make use of this hidden resource.

Teacher availability, as well as teacher retention, remains challenging. We are continuing to take measures to increase the number and retention of Gaelic teachers and other educational professionals. These include;

- Advice provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on solutions for recruitment and retention challenges in three Local Authority areas;
- Advice provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on further solutions to increase the number of people entering Initial Teacher Education;
- Immersion courses funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Opportunities for GTCS registered teachers currently teaching in English-medium to move to teaching GME. Promoted via online information sessions and dissemination of information to LA officers.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig collaboration with General Teaching Council of Scotland (GTCS) on advertising of immersion course funding and opportunities through Teaching Scotland magazine, aimed at respondents of GTCS Gaelic Survey who indicated an interest in transferring from English-medium to Gaelic-medium teaching.
- During 2019/20, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and GTCS collaborated to create a new resource which maps out the different routes to achieving professional qualifications for teaching. *So, You Want to Teach in Gaelic?* is the first such publication which informs people what support and courses are available to enable them to achieve their ambitions.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig Gaelic Education Grants Scheme supports c.50 student teachers annually undertaking Initial Teacher Education Courses or Early Years courses leading to GME entry, teachers in GME who are undertaking courses to develop their skills further and teachers not currently in GME who are looking to develop their Gaelic skills to move into the sector. In addition the Grants Scheme has been opened to Modern Languages Teachers on the pilot course at Strathclyde University (see note).
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig support for probationer teachers through an annual conference and a series of additional training events across the school year aimed at new GME teachers.
- Funding provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for the development of a Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services: Children and Young People" and "HNC Child
- Work" to be delivered through the medium of Gaelic.
- Funding has been provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to Newbattle Abbey to deliver a two-year course to help develop Gaelic skills among early years workers.
- encouraging more effective strategic workforce planning between local authorities through, for example, direct engagement with all meetings of the national Gaelic Local Authority Network (the national network which brings together local authority Gaelic Language Lead Officers);
- working with a variety of Further and Higher Education Institutions to widen access to routes in to teaching through the medium of Gaelic; and,
- targeted advertising campaigns for teacher and early years staff using social media led by Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

- Annual programme of school visits from dedicated Teacher Recruitment Officer at Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and funded by the Scottish Government, encouraging young people to consider careers in GME. The dedicated officer also presents at careers fayres across the country and promotes the digital resources for practitioners and students available on the Bòrd na Gàidhlig website as padlets.
- Bòrd na Gàidhlig is delivering an ongoing promotional campaign for careers in GME Primary, Secondary and Early Years called DèanDiofar built around a set of short videos of GME practitioners in all three sectors. The materials are available on the Bòrd na Gàidhlig website.

HM Inspectors continue to review the partnership working between universities and local authorities in providing Initial teacher education and highlighted effective examples of flexibility and creativity that suit local circumstances. These include ensuring provision for initial training in GME in rural areas, high use of digital technology and opportunities to train as a teacher while also remaining in employment. Education Scotland and Stòrlann continue to provide workshop development of curriculum and resources for teachers at all levels.

Education Scotland (ES) continues to produce resources and provide advice to support the curriculum for Gaelic Education. Working with colleagues across the organisation, ES have hosted a range of professional learning sessions relating to curriculum, and sessions for seniors leaders in Gaelic Education to gain a better understanding of the curriculum for Gaelic. Education Scotland has facilitated opportunities for senior leaders to come together to share practice and network.

Education Scotland is engaged in ongoing work associated with taking forward the OECD recommendations and to support education reform. Officers participated in meetings to ensure the needs of Gaelic Education are considered from the outset. Education Scotland has responded to The Hayward Review consultation and the needs of the Gaelic sector formed part of organisation response. ES officers were invited to meet with Professor Hayward which was a further opportunity to engage about Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding enables the placement of teachers on year-long Gaelic immersion courses designed to enable qualified teachers to transition from English medium education to Gaelic medium. Applicants are required to have a basic understanding of the language. This support is also available for early-years staff. These immersion courses are offered at three centres in Glasgow, Skye, and the Isle of Lewis.

Stòrlann, the Gaelic resource agency, continues to host an annual 2-day conference for Gaelic medium teachers which provides training on new school resources. Education Scotland has provided a wide range of professional learning opportunities, such as conferences, GLOW sessions and resources to support teachers with improvement in Gaelic Education.

Para 1(i) to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of Scottish Gaelic and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public.

HM Inspectors of Education (HMI) are key players in supporting stronger provision for Scottish Gaelic Education. HMI operate independently and impartially for inspection activities, whilst remaining directly accountable to Scottish Ministers for the standards of our work. This status safeguards the independence of inspection, review and reporting within the overall context of the National Performance Framework. In 2024, we will restructure to be an independent inspectorate and no longer be part of the executive agency, Foghlam Alba - Education

Scotland. **HM Inspectors are currently preparing a high-level strategic operating plan for the transition to an independent inspectorate. Gaelic is being given due consideration and respect in this transition and operation plan.**

HMI continue to integrate Gaelic within our core purposes. These **core purposes** are to:

- provide assurance and public accountability to stakeholders about the quality of education locally, nationally and at individual establishment/service level;
- promote improvement and building capacity through identifying and sharing effective practice;
- inform the development of educational policy and practice by providing independent, professional evaluations from observing practice at first hand.

HMI Inspectors produce a **statutory five-year Gaelic Language Plan (GLP)** to drive what we will do to support achieving equity and excellence for Gaelic. HMI agree with Scottish Ministers high-level objectives for Gaelic to be actioned as part of the GLP. A HM specialist lead inspector leads the delivery of this plan. HMI connect the specific targets and objectives of the [Gaelic Language Plan \(GLP\) 2022-2027](#) with core purposes, supporting system improvement and meeting national objectives. HMI consult stakeholders for their views on the intended outcomes of the GLP.

HMI Inspectors' executive summary of the current plan is available here: [PDF file: Gaelic Language Plan Summary \(740 KB\)](#)

Since the last reporting period to the Council of Europe, HMI have developed a team of HM Inspectors who undertake regular professional learning to support the delivery of core objectives for Gaelic. This is increasing the support HMI can give in 3-18 educational provisions for Gaelic. HMI have also increased temporary appointments of Assistant Inspectors and Associate Assessors. This has enabled HMI to **increase the number of inspections of Scottish Gaelic Education and support strengthening of Scottish Gaelic Education**. Assistant Inspectors and Associate Assessors have recent experience of delivering Scottish Gaelic Education within schools. HMI expect Associate Assessors to use the experience they gain from working with HMI to support strengthening Scottish Gaelic Education within their own establishments and also with other teachers in the education authority.

HMI report on individual establishments and services. Specialist HM Inspectors for Gaelic lead the inspection of Gaelic to increase our impact in evaluating quality and supporting improvements. For each individual establishment report, HMI identify strengths and areas for improvement on core elements of education. These areas for improvement clarify with the establishment how they should strengthen Scottish Gaelic Education. All of HMI inspection reports comment on progress with implementing the statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, 2017.

HMI publish our inspection reports in Gaelic and English. Examples of our reports may be found here: [Inspection reports](#). Should HMI not be satisfied with the quality of Scottish Gaelic Education in an establishment, HMI will monitor the establishment's progress with action points and evaluate progress through further inspection.

During the **pandemic**, HMI supported children and young people **learning at home** by producing learning activities that could be used independent of schools. Teachers could also use these learning activities when arranging learning activities for children and young people to do when learning at home during the pandemic. **These learning activities remain**

available on HMI website and are still used. The most used and viewed learning activity from our website is directly related to enacting immersion approaches. More detail on immersion is in the “Advice on Gaelic Education. HMI also invited schools to **self-nominate for recovery visits from HM Inspectors to support improvements in schools.** This approach increased our reach for supporting strengthening Scottish Gaelic Education, with HMI visiting all-Gaelic schools as well as dual medium schools.

HMI report on Gaelic within **themed inspections.** These themes are on areas of national importance, for which we report independently and impartially. In 2023, our themed inspection reporting includes themes such as the curriculum, early learning and childcare and Gaelic. HMI add references to Gaelic in these reports.

Here are some examples of published reports that evaluate Gaelic:

[School Inspection Findings 2018-19](#)

[Local approaches to recovery: a thematic review](#)

[Responsive, supportive and resilient communities - September 2022](#)

HMI promote improvement and building capacity through identifying and sharing effective practice. The [Advice on Gaelic Education](#) describes best practice for evaluating and **planning for improvement in Gaelic Education.** It is based on evidence from inspections and reviews. It incorporates key legislation and policy. The Advice on Gaelic Education and Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, 2017 are used with the suite of inspection quality frameworks [How good is our ..?](#) to contextualise these to the Gaelic sector. All of our frameworks are available in Gaelic and English. The framework, How good is our community learning and development has some articulation to Gaelic. It is also of considerable support in supporting planning of Scottish Gaelic within communities.

HM Inspectors present at a range of conferences and webinars. Examples of the slides from events on a range of themes are also available on the [Advice on Gaelic Education](#) page.

HMI have a key role for sharing effective practice from inspection. HMI author practitioner resources to support self-evaluation and improvement frameworks, while sharing effective practice from inspection. HMI have increased learner and teacher participation in our resources. Here are some examples:

[Sharing scrutiny evidence on Gaelic Medium Education](#) – early learning and childcare total immersion

[Sharing inspection evidence: leadership and primary Gaelic Medium and Learner Education](#)

[Sharing scrutiny evidence on Gaelic Medium Education - secondary curriculum](#)

[Sketchnotes - Sharing highly effective practice and inspection highlights](#)

Informing the development of educational policy

HM Inspectors impacted and influenced national educational and Scottish Gaelic policy by providing evaluative professional advice. HMI have provided professional advice on the National Gaelic Language Plan, 2023 – 2028, The Hayward Review of Qualifications and

Assessment and the Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, 2017. Here is an example of how we do this:

[PDF file: Education Scotland Response to the National Gaelic Language Plan, 2023-28 \(396 KB\)](#)

HMI also strengthen Scottish Gaelic Education through duties in the **Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010**. A council must consult parents, children, young people and the wider community when it proposes a change to its school estate. This includes changes such as proposals to close schools, changes to a school's catchment area and setting up of catchment areas for Gaelic Medium Education. The [Schools \(Consultation\) \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#) sets out the formal process that councils must follow. HMI have a statutory duty to produce an independent and impartial report on these proposals. These reports may be accessed on our [school consultation reports page](#). HMI always ensure that Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Comann nam Pàrant are consulted on proposals for Gaelic Medium Education. More detail can be read in the [Statutory Guidance on Gaelic Education, 2017](#).

HMI also strengthen Scottish Gaelic Education through duties in the **Education (Scotland) Act 2016**. The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 ensures that education authorities assess the need for establishing Gaelic Medium Primary Education. The parent of a child who has not yet started school may request that their local education authority assesses the need for Gaelic Medium Education. More information is available on the [Scottish Government website](#). An important feature of this Act is that it puts in place a timely, statutory process for education authorities to follow on receipt of a parental request. HMI are involved in the statutory process and produce an independent and impartial report on the determination to set up a Gaelic Medium provision. Examples of HMI reports are available here:

[PDF file: Glasgow City Council Report - Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(509 KB\)](#)

[PDF file: Glasgow City Council Report - Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(Gaelic version\) \(502 KB\)](#)

[PDF file: East Renfrewshire Council Report - Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(513 KB\)](#)

[PDF file: East Renfrewshire Council Report - Education \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(Gaelic version\) \(511 KB\)](#)

Para 2. with regard to education and in respect of territories other than those in which Scottish Gaelic is traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a Scottish Gaelic justifies it, to allow, encourage or provide teaching in or of the Scottish Gaelic at all the appropriate stages of education.

The Scottish Government has undertaken a consultation of proposals for a new strategy for Gaelic Education. The responses are currently being considered and will be the basis of future Languages legislation.

The Education (Scotland) Act passed in 2016 contained a number of Gaelic provisions including:

- a duty on local authorities to promote Gaelic education;
- a parental right to a request for Gaelic medium primary education and a duty on the local authority to undertake a viability process in response to such a request; and,
- a duty on Bòrd na Gàidhlig to produce Statutory Guidance for Gaelic education. The Guidance will cover both Gaelic medium and Gaelic learner education from pre-school through to secondary education.

Article 9 - Judicial Authorities

Para 1(b) (iii) In civil proceedings to allow documents and evidence to be produced in Scottish Gaelic

Bòrd na Gàidhlig submitted a response to the Scottish Government consultation on the [Future of the Land Court and the Lands Tribunal](#) to recommend that the proposal to remove the requirement for a Gaelic-speaker on the Land Court was not appropriate and that the requirement that one member of the Land Court be a Gaelic-speaker had existed since 1912.

At that time, Gaelic speakers had almost no protection in law. The inclusion of this requirement created an opportunity for Gaelic-speakers to use their language of preference in at least one institutional setting of importance to them. The requirement also was an important recognition of the worth of the language and of its speakers. The presence of a Gaelic-speaker on the Land Court encourages the use of Gaelic, gives expression to the status of Gaelic as an official language, and is an important indicator of equal respect for the language. The removal of the requirement would discourage the use of Gaelic, would detract from its status as an official language of Scotland, and would be rightly considered to be an indication of disrespect for the language.

Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Para 1(c) to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in Scottish Gaelic

Under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig can request authorities and bodies to prepare Gaelic language Plans. There is formal Guidance in place for this which provides advice on the use of Gaelic in publications and communications.

Para 2(a) the use of regional or minority languages within the framework of the regional or local authority

Under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig can request authorities and bodies to prepare Gaelic language Plans. All Plans are produced by public authorities in conjunction with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and are tailored to suit the specific demographic and geographic nature of their activities.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig continues to offer a range of grant schemes to support Public Authorities in their developments of Gaelic.

Para 2(b) the possibility for users of Scottish Gaelic to submit oral or written applications in these languages.

Under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig can request authorities and bodies to prepare Gaelic language Plans. There is formal Guidance in place for this which provides advice on the use of Gaelic in publications and communications. Bòrd na Gàidhlig works to ensure that commitments include equal respect for both Gaelic and English languages.

The Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan has been revised and sets out how it will engage with the Gaelic community and how it will support the language through its policies.

[Gaelic language plan 2022 to 2027 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Education Scotland published the second iteration of its Gaelic Language Plan, 2022-2027. It forms part of the organisation's corporate planning and demonstrates how developing Gaelic Education will continue to be supported.

Para 2(d) the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in Scottish Gaelic

Under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005, Bòrd na Gàidhlig can request authorities and bodies to prepare Gaelic language Plans. There is formal Guidance in place for this which provides advice on the use of Gaelic in publications and communications. Bòrd na Gàidhlig works to ensure that commitments include equal respect for both Gaelic and English languages.

The Scottish Government's Gaelic Language Plan has been revised and sets out how it will engage with the Gaelic community and how it will support the language through its policies.

[Gaelic language plan 2022 to 2027 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Education Scotland published the second iteration of its Gaelic Language Plan, 2022-27. It forms part of the organisation's corporate planning and demonstrates how developing Gaelic Education will continue to be supported.

Para 2(e) the use by regional authorities of Scottish Gaelic in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State.

Members of Scottish Parliament may use any Gaelic in proceedings but formal notification of a request to do so must be made in advance. This is to ensure that the relevant translation is available to other Members. Parliamentary Committees will also accept oral and written evidence in Gaelic.

Para 2(f) the use by local authorities of Scottish Gaelic in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State.

Both Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (the Western Isles Council) and Highland Council have standing Gaelic Committees which oversee the delivery of their Gaelic Language Plans. Parts of these meetings are held through the medium of Gaelic. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar now normalises the use of Gaelic across many of its formal meetings.

Para 2(g) the use or adoption, if necessary, in conjunction with the name in the official language(s) of traditional and correct forms of placenames in Scottish Gaelic

Ainmean Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) determine authoritative forms of Gaelic placenames across Scotland with reference to both research into historical forms and consolidation on current usage.

They continue to work in partnership with the Scottish Government and local authorities to produce bilingual signage. The Scottish Government funded the replacement of their website in 2016.

Para 5. The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the Scottish Gaelic, at the request of those concerned.

No developments since the last report.

Article 11 – Media

Para 1(a)(ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of at least one radio station.

and one television channel in Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government continues to fund MG ALBA which delivers BBC ALBA (the Gaelic language television channel) in partnership with the BBC. BBC ALBA is the first partnership television service to operate under a BBC licence. MG ALBA also funds Radio nan Gàidheal, the Gaelic radio station, and other local community radio stations.

MG ALBA and BBC Radio nan Gàidheal work closely to deliver Gaelic audio and audio-visual content to a wide range of audiences.

Change in audience consumption patterns, which are reflected across the media sphere, are highlighting the importance of securing Gaelic media's space in the digital domain. Audiences expect content across a range of platforms, and it is important that they are able to access content. Investment in Gaelic media is required to ensure that Gaelic audiences can access the content they want in their language, as the significant range of content in dominant majority languages will result in them disengaging with their minority language in the digital domain. This will be catastrophic for a language like Gaelic where often media content is a key driver of language skills and engagement.

MG ALBA and BBC ALBA are key elements to the delivery of the UK's obligations under the Article 11 of the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages. The Scottish Government fund MG ALBA, who deliver BBC ALBA in partnership with the BBC. Broadcasting is a reserved matter and MG ALBA continue to argue that there are significant improvements required to the service in order for it to secure its place in the digital domain in relation to prominence, statutory recognition, and a funding mechanism. These issues can only be properly addressed through legislation, which is reserved to the UK Government.

Para 1(b)(ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of radio programmes in Scottish Gaelic

MG ALBA works in partnership with the BBC to commission Gaelic audio content for use across a range of platforms, including Radio nan Gàidheal.

Para 1(c)(ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the broadcasting of television programmes in Scottish Gaelic on a regular basis.

The Scottish Government continues to fund MG ALBA which delivers BBC ALBA (the Gaelic language television channel) in partnership with the BBC. BBC ALBA is the first partnership television service to operate under a BBC licence.

MG ALBA believe that the Gaelic TV Channel should have Public Service Broadcaster status in its own right, and enshrined in legislation, creating parity of esteem for Gaelic and Welsh broadcasting. This would result in BBC ALBA properly being situated within Paragraph 1a(i).

Para 1(d) to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audio-visual works in Scottish Gaelic

FilmG is the highly successful and innovative Gaelic short film competition which is now delivered by Astar Media on behalf of MG ALBA. The competition has maintained its popularity, and despite the issues of Covid, 2023 was a record-breaking year for entries and engagement. FilmG has high engagement across all its social media platforms, connecting with younger audiences through living in their digital world. Films from FilmG were available to view on the BBC iPlayer.

BBC ALBA's social media platforms provide a range of audio-visual content for a range of ages and abilities. Further investment in these platforms is essential to serve audiences.

SpeakGaelic's multi-platform approach allows learners the opportunity to access learning content whenever is suitable for them, providing new ways to learn in the digital age.

MG ALBA is partnering in the development of a speech to text programme which is being developed by Edinburgh University, and funded by the Scottish Government, which has the potential to transform the options in relation to media subtitling.

Para 1(e)(ii) to encourage and/or facilitate the publication of newspaper articles in Scottish Gaelic on a regular basis.

BBC ALBA's online news site provides online news information. This service is affected by a need for more investment to facilitate changing audience engagement patterns.

MG ALBA provide listing and programme information to a range of media publications and engages with them to develop opportunities for promoting content about Gaelic media.

MG ALBA publishes its own and BBC Alba news stories on its website. It also provides them to local and national media outlets.

A number of Public Bodies including the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament, who have produced Gaelic Language Plans provide some news releases and statements in Gaelic for news media to use. This is often backed up in social media through the medium of Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig requires public bodies with Gaelic language plans to increase their use of Gaelic in social media and press releases.

Para 1(f)(ii) to apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audio-visual productions in Scottish Gaelic

The Scottish Government provides financial support to MG ALBA for FilmG, as well as funding for SpeakGaelic and LearnGaelic.

Creative Scotland has partnered with MG ALBA to invest in content, such as recent drama An Clò Mòr, and MG ALBA continues to work closely with them to achieve a wide range of outcomes, including new content, audience, and skills development to maximise content investment.

In addition, Bòrd na Gàidhlig provides financial support to MG ALBA for FilmG, LearnGaelic.scot and SpeakGaelic. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has also provided support for the production of Clò Mòr, the new Gaelic drama. It also provides ongoing support for Theatre Gu Leòr and Comhairle nan Leabhraichean for events and skill development.

Para 1(g) support the training of journalists and other staff for media using Scottish Gaelic

MG ALBA facilitates a range of training opportunities to promote the opportunities and value of working in Gaelic media. This includes offering funded places on Gaelic specific tv and radio training programmes at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. It also, in partnership with Creative Scotland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has funded trainee placements on productions, with current drama production in the Western Isles hosting a trainee programme.

In addition, various public bodies, including Scottish Government and Bord, regularly provide interviews, new releases and recorded segments for BBC ALBA, Radio nan Gàidheal and other media platforms.

Para 2. The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to Scottish Gaelic.

No restrictions in place.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Para 1(a) to encourage types of expression and initiatives specific to Scottish Gaelic and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages.

The Scottish Government has developed a National Cultural Strategy. Scotland's languages feature as part of this.

[A Culture Strategy for Scotland - Arts, culture and heritage - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Ongoing Scottish Government support for the Royal National Mòd, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and other Gaelic arts and culture projects.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig commissioned the creation of a new national Gaelic drama company and has continued to fund it and its related projects, including national touring productions, international co-productions, and radio drama.

There is ongoing Bòrd na Gàidhlig support for the Royal National Mòd, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Comhairle nan Leabhraichean and other Gaelic arts and culture developments.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig funds Gaelic development officers in a range of arts and heritage organisations. These officers promote the use of Gaelic in their organisations as well as developing and programming a greater range of activities through the medium of Gaelic.

Para 1(d) to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of Scottish Gaelic and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing.

The Scottish Government has developed a National Cultural Strategy. Scotland's languages feature as part of this.

[A Culture Strategy for Scotland - Arts, culture and heritage - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

Creative Scotland (CS), the public body responsible for Scotland's arts, screen, and creative industries, has a Gaelic Language Plan and a Gaelic Arts and Culture Officer who works jointly with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to ensure a strategic approach to enhancing Gaelic arts and culture across Scotland and internationally. Creative Scotland continues to support Regular Funded Organisations (RFOs): Fèisean nan Gàidheal, The Gaelic Books Council, An Lanntair and others that work with Gaelic artists and audiences. CS also maintains a targeted budget for strategic Gaelic arts development.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig also works with National Libraries of Scotland, National Museums of Scotland and National Galleries of Scotland through their Gaelic language plans which increases the use and understanding of Gaelic in the work and services these bodies deliver.

Para 1(e) to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of Scottish Gaelic concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population.

Public bodies that have Gaelic Language Plans, including Historic Environment Scotland, Creative Scotland, Visit Scotland, and various local authorities, often consider the appointment of a Gaelic Development Officer to take forward their Plans. Many of these Development Officers have a level of Gaelic.

Para 1(f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of Scottish Gaelic in providing facilities and planning cultural activities.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has delivered a wide range of interventions to support increased use of Gaelic language in island and rural areas, in urban areas and online communities.

Ongoing annual support is provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to Comunn na Gàidhlig for its Iomairtean officers who work primarily with young people in encouraging greater use and confidence in Gaelic through cultural and sports activities.

Other funding support has enabled creation of roles in third-sector organisations, such as the Scottish Poetry Library and YoungScot, to increase the resources, facilities and cultural activities for Gaelic speakers and learners.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has also provided additional funding to increase the number and range of Gaelic development officers working in island and rural communities. These officers are based primarily in arts or heritage organisations and community land trusts. Further support was provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to create a community fund, delivered by Community Land Scotland to support new and additional projects in the islands.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig initiated and commissioned the piloting of a Gaelic-medium development network for community-based Gaelic development officers. This delivered knowledge and skill development activities, increased networking between organisations and individuals and introduced examples of minority language developments in other countries. The pilot has been evaluated and the next stage is being developed.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has also provided funding and support for the development of a greater range of sporting activities through the medium of Gaelic.

Communities can also apply directly to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for community funding. Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd (the community support fund) is designed for small groups to apply to for small community projects up to the value of £5000. During COVID-19, develop a COVID Support Fund to provide additional assistance to organisations who deliver Bòrd na Gàidhlig r Gaelic development to increase their resilience. Like Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd it was designed to be as accessible to as wide a range of organisations as possible, in order to encourage, maintain and increase the day-to-day use of Gaelic in communities. Voluntary community organisations, social enterprises, small businesses, sporting, religious, arts and school groups have previously received assistance through these avenues of funding.

Para 1(g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in Scottish Gaelic

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provide on-going support to the Gaelic Books Council which publishes literature for fluent speakers and learners of Gaelic. The National Library of Scotland has a duty to collate all material released and continues to keep copies of Gaelic literature.

Para 1(h) if necessary, to create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical, or legal terminology in Scottish Gaelic

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has established Buidheann Stiùiridh Corpais (the corpus management group) to coordinate the standardisation of Gaelic grammar and vocabulary and to take forward projects to close gaps in provision.

An Seotal continues to gather and standardise terminology for education. Ainmean Àite na h-Alba (AÀA) which determines authoritative forms of Gaelic placenames across Scotland and for Faclair na Gàidhlig, the historical dictionary for Gaelic.

Para 2. In respect of territories other than those in which Scottish Gaelic are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of Scottish Gaelic justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Local authorities and Public Bodies continue to support cultural activities through their Gaelic Language Plans. These range from simple inclusion of Gaelic in promotion to full engagement with Gaelic festivals such as the Royal National Mod.

Para 3. The parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad for Scottish Gaelic and the cultures they reflect.

The Scottish Government maintains links with countries in the British Irish Council, including Wales and Ireland while expanding our cultural and educational links with Nova Scotia. Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland also maintain international links. BBC ALBA broadcasts some events internationally.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig maintains international links with Republic of Ireland and Canada in particular. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has funded organisations to participate in cultural events abroad such as L' Orient Festival and Pan Celtic Festival so as to increase the awareness and accessibility of Gaelic language and culture. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has held promotional events for Gaelic artists as part of the international Celtic Connections festival, both in Glasgow and as online events during the pandemic.

BBC ALBA provides content which reflects the Gaelic and Scottish culture to a wide audience, in the UK through the linear channel and the iPlayer, and to audiences around the world on its social media platforms and Youtube.

The BBC ALBA commissioning model which seeks out co-productions, has led to significant international collaborations, taking opportunities to showcase Gaelic culture across the globe.

Article 13 – Economic and social life

Para 1(a) to eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of Scottish Gaelic in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations.

The Scottish Government set up a Short Life Working Group on the Economic Opportunities for Gaelic. The Group have just completed their work and we will consider its recommendations once it is received.

There has been sensitivity in employing Gaelic speakers over non-Gaelic speakers for certain roles that directly relate to Gaelic language or culture. Therefore, employers sometimes label Gaelic language skills as 'Desirable' and can find themselves open to accusation of discrimination for employing a non-Gaelic speaker who may be just as competent. Bòrd na Gàidhlig have developed guidance in relation to advertising Gaelic language skills as 'Desirable' or 'Essential' criteria for Gaelic related posts. This work has included legal consultation.

Para 1(c) to oppose practises designed to discourage the use of Scottish Gaelic in connection with economic or social activities.

The Scottish Government continues to defend financial decisions in relation to funding for Gaelic language and to combat negative media and press.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has presented papers at regional and national assemblies to demonstrate the positive impact of Gaelic and Gaelic speakers on the economy. Bòrd na Gàidhlig was a funder and collaborator in the development and implementation of the first ever National Gaelic Tourism Strategy, led by the public body responsible for tourism. Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with international agencies such as Bilingualism Matters to provide presentations on issues relating to Scottish Gaelic for a range of events within Scotland and internationally.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has funded a number of economic impact studies which further emphasise the economic, cultural, and social opportunities and advantages that Gaelic language and culture provide in Scotland.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig regularly responds to national and regional consultations on all matters relating to Gaelic language and culture. This includes responses to Scottish Government economic strategy, regional economic development strategies, national planning and national transport frameworks, and matters, such as housing, economy, transport, and connectivity, which all impact on retaining population in the island and rural areas.

Collaborating with public authorities primarily through their Gaelic language plans, we promote the importance of recognising Gaelic language skills as an economic benefit and make recommendations and requirements for posts to be recognised as Gaelic essential or Gaelic desirable.

MG ALBA highlights the wide range of benefits of Gaelic media, contributing to the economic, community and social benefits of Gaelic. The most recent study on the economic value of MG ALBA carried out by Ekos identified a £1.34 return for every £1 spent. Also, contributing over 300 jobs, with 160 of those in the fragile communities of the Highlands & Islands. Key highlights of the study can be read here: [Economic and Social Value of MG ALBA](#)

Article 14 – Transfrontier exchanges

Para (a) to apply existing bilateral and multilateral agreements which bind them with the States in which the same language is used in identical or similar form, or if necessary to seek to conclude such agreements, in such a way as to foster contacts between the users of the same language in the States concerned in the fields of culture, education, information vocational training and permanent education.

The Scottish Government provides ongoing support for Gaelic students in Nova Scotia. Ongoing association with the British Irish Council in relation to the Indigenous Minority and Lesser-Used Language Work Sector. We have supported Nova Scotian Gaelic speakers in a number of ways this cycle, including the promotion and involvement with their politicians speaking Gaelic in Parliament, promotion of Gaelic month and support to their first Gaelic school.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided evidence to the Council of Europe Delegation on national minorities' rights in the UK and to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly inquiry into provision for indigenous minority languages.

Para (b) for the benefit of regional or minority languages to facilitate and/or promote co-operation across borders, in particular between Scottish Gaelic, in whose territory the same language is used in identical or similar form.

The Scottish Government provides ongoing support for Gaelic students in Nova Scotia. Ongoing association with the British Irish Council in relation to the Indigenous Minority and Lesser-Used Language Work Sector.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig works with Foras na Gaeilge (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) to deliver the Colmcille Initiative. This provides funding for activities which encourage and facilitate co-operation across borders including cultural, sporting and language learning events and courses.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig initiated the year-long celebration of St Columba which brought together Gaelic, Gaeilge and Manx speakers and learners through a range of face-to-face and online events. These were held locally, nationally, and internationally involving UK, Republic of Ireland, Canada and participants in USA, Australia, and New Zealand.

D. EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES – WELSH LANGUAGE

Report on the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages – Welsh – 6th cycle submission, July 2023

Introduction

Statistical background

The first results on the Welsh language from the 2021 Census were published in [December 2022](#). Census 2021 estimated that there were over 538,000 people aged three years or older living in Wales able to speak Welsh, or 17.8% of the population on Census Day (21 March 2021). This was a decrease of almost 24,000 people since Census 2011, or 1.2 percentage points lower than Census 2011.

It's important to note that Census 2021 was held during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, on 21 March 2021. This followed periods of lockdown, remote learning for children and many people were working from home. It is not known how the pandemic may have impacted people's reported Welsh language ability (or perception of the Welsh language ability of others).

The decrease since 2011 is mainly driven by the percentage of children and young people reported as being able to speak Welsh. Although the percentage of children and young people aged 3 to 15 years reported as being able to speak Welsh decreased across all local authorities between 2011 and 2021, the decreases appeared most stark in areas with lower concentrations of Welsh speakers.

The reported number of young people able to speak Welsh both in 2011 and 2021 were higher than the number of people attending Welsh-medium education. Between 2011 and 2021, there was an increase in the number of young people attending Welsh-medium education. The decrease therefore in young people reporting their ability to speak Welsh may reflect Welsh language ability in the English-medium education sector. The 2021 Census was held during COVID-19 and these young people would probably not have had the usual contact with the Welsh language at their educational settings during that time.

Despite decreases in Welsh-speaking ability among children and young people, there were some areas of Wales which saw increases in the total percentage of people able to speak Welsh. These are concentrated in south-east Wales.

There are several other data sources available that provide some information about the Welsh language that we can use to monitor trends in the period between censuses. This suite of data sources each have their own strengths and limitations when looking at Welsh language statistics.

Household surveys, such as the Annual Population Survey (APS) and the National Survey for Wales, typically provide higher estimates of the number of people able to speak Welsh than the census, and both the Office for National Statistics (ONS) ([Differences in estimates of Welsh Language Skills](#)) and the Welsh Government ([Welsh language data from the Annual Population Survey: 2001 to 2018](#)) have explored possible reasons for some of these differences in the past.

The APS estimated that there were around 884,000 people aged three years or older able to speak Welsh in the year ending 31 March 2021, or 29.2% of the population. This was an increase of almost 134,000 people since the year ending 31 March 2011, or 3.4 percentage points higher.

While household surveys typically provide us with higher estimates of Welsh-speaking ability, they have generally moved in a similar direction to the census estimates. However, with the 2021 Census results, this is the first time that the census has estimated declining numbers of Welsh speakers and household surveys have estimated increasing numbers.

Following the publication of Census 2021, we are prioritising work to examine the differences between these data sources in more detail, including the exploration of innovative approaches such as data linking, to ensure we have a coherent evidence base which can be used for decision making.

We have published a workplan which outlines the work that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Welsh Government are planning to undertake during 2023-24 and beyond to improve our understanding of the main survey and administrative data sources used to produce statistics about the Welsh language. This [workplan](#) has been accompanied by a [blog](#) published by the Chief Statistician.

Welsh Language Use in Wales initial findings were published in February 2022 and presented the main findings from the Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20. The Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20 is a continuation of research that was undertaken jointly by the [Welsh Language Commissioner and the Welsh Government in 2013-15](#). There were also [Welsh Language Use Surveys in 2004 to 2006](#), carried out by the Welsh Language Board.

The purpose of the Welsh Language Use Survey is to know how often, where, when and with whom Welsh speakers use Welsh, and to know more about their abilities in the language. We consider that the census remains the main source of information about the Welsh language ability of the population aged three or older in Wales, but this survey provides us with information about the use of the language by Welsh speakers.

Some of the key results from the survey showed that:

Of the population aged three or older in Wales:

- 10% spoke Welsh daily and could speak more than a few words, the same percentage as in 2013-15 ([National Indicator](#)).
- 10% could speak Welsh fluently, a decrease of one percentage point since 2013-15.

Of the Welsh speakers aged three or older in Wales:

- Over half (56%) spoke the language daily (regardless of their levels of fluency) compared with 53% in the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15, and almost one in every five spoke the language weekly (19%, the same percentage as in 2013-15); these percentages varied by age, and were at their highest for those aged 3 to 15 and at their lowest for those aged 16 to 29.
- A little under half (48%) considered themselves fluent in Welsh, compared with 47% in the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15, with the percentage increasing by age, being highest for those aged 65 or older and lowest for those aged 3 to 15.
- 43% of Welsh speakers started to learn the language at home as young children, the same percentage as in 2013-15.
- Over two thirds of Welsh speakers agree (strongly agree or tend to agree) that speaking Welsh is an important part of who they are.

We will use all data sources available to us to plan our future work to ensure that we remain on track to deliver our Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*.

Policy background

In 2017, following extensive consultation with major stakeholders and members of the public, we launched our strategy, [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#) (*Cymraeg 2050*). This followed on from *A living language: A language for living*, the Welsh Government's Welsh language strategy between April 2012 and the end of July 2017. *Cymraeg 2050* sets out the Welsh Government's long-term approach to reach the targets of doubling daily language use and reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. This commitment has been included in subsequent Welsh Government Programmes for Government.

Cymraeg 2050 is a high-level strategy which sets a long-term direction of travel. In order to drive Welsh language policy and actions forward in the shorter term, and ensure that progress under the strategy can be scrutinised, we have published two Work Programmes which coincide with Senedd electoral terms. The first [Work Programme](#) ran from *Cymraeg 2050*'s publication in 2017 until 2021, and the current, second, [Work Programme](#) was launched in 2021 and will run until 2026. To augment both the strategy and Work Programmes, we publish annual Action Plans setting out what we'll do during the relevant financial year to drive the policy forward, and Annual Reports detailing, retrospectively, what progress has been made during a financial year. The publication of the strategy, action plan and annual report are required by legislation, as laid out in the Government of Wales Act 2006 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

All Welsh Government Ministers are responsible for integrating the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy into their own portfolio areas. The current Minister for Education and Welsh Language holds regular bilateral meetings with Cabinet colleagues to discuss the mainstreaming of *Cymraeg 2050* across all departments of the Welsh Government.

Brexit / COVID-19

Since launching *Cymraeg 2050* in 2017, we have been focussing on laying strong foundations and robust infrastructure and working to develop a positive public discourse surrounding the Welsh language.

Cymraeg 2050 states that our plans for delivering the strategy would need to be adapted over time in response to changes in society. Challenges brought by leaving the European Union and the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that many of our interventions and those of our partners have had to change or cease, and new interventions have had to be initiated. However, with a strategy that spans a long period, we knew that changes in society would mean having to adapt our priorities over time. Of course, we've had to do so earlier than expected, but the core elements and aims of our vision remain.

We don't yet fully know what all the implications of the pandemic will be on meeting the *Cymraeg 2050* targets, but we've been focusing on several aspects including education, the social use of Welsh, and the socio-economic fabric of communities where Welsh is a community language.

But along with numerous challenges, the pandemic also brought opportunities. A prime example of this can be seen in terms of the provision to enable adults to learn Welsh, which quickly adapted to the constraints brought by the pandemic. The National Centre for Learning Welsh's face-to-face provision came to an end in early 2020 and moved to virtual learning. That provision continued during 2021-22 with some face-to-face learning returning where

possible. During 2021-22, the Centre continued to provide blended and virtual learning courses. As of 31 March 2022, 59% or over 17,000 of learning activities were taking place virtually online, and 4% or over 1,100 of the activities were blended learning courses, combining independent learning with online sessions with tutors. Digital resources developed by the Centre are used to facilitate learning for these learners.

Programme for Government / Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru

In 2021, following that year's Senedd elections, the Welsh Government set out its vision for the Senedd term ahead. Concurrently, several key strategic documents were published during this period, including: [the Programme for Government](#) (June 2021), and [the Co-operation Agreement](#) with Plaid Cymru (November 2021) which outlines how the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru will work together on policies where there is a common interest.

The refreshed Programme for Government, incorporating the Co-operation Agreement, included a strong focus on the Welsh language. Under the heading '*Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers*', the document states that we will:

- *Legislate to strengthen and increase our Welsh language education provision.*
- *Streamline the process for implementing Welsh Language standards.*
- *Implement Welsh Language standards on public transport; regulators in the health sector; newly established public bodies and water companies; and begin work on implementing standards on housing associations.*
- *Support an increase in Welshspeaking spaces, including workplaces.*
- *Create a Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan.*

In relation to Welsh language communities and the economy, commitments are also included to:

- *Act to ensure that Welsh language place names in the built and natural environments are safeguarded and promoted.*
- *Address inequalities between poorer and richer parts of the country by building on the Arfor pilot, which promoted entrepreneurship, business growth, community resilience and the Welsh language.*

In terms of education and the Welsh language, the document states that we will:

- *Expand the proportion of the education workforce who can teach and work through the Welsh language.*
- *Incentivise the increase of Welsh medium provision in all education settings.*
- *Establish and implement a single continuum of Welsh language learning.*
- *Expand the role of and increase funding to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh.*
- *Expand the Pupil Immersion Programme.*
- *Introduce a pilot project which will incentivise young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help teach Welsh in schools.*

And under the heading '*Protect, re-build and develop our services for vulnerable people*' is included:

- *Increase apprenticeships in care and recruit more Welsh speakers.*
- *Deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all 2 year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision.*

Progress against these high-level commitments is outlined under the relevant headings in this report. Each action feeds into the *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* strategy.

Budget

When we published our 2022 Welsh Spending Review, in December 2021, the total budget allocated to deliver *Cymraeg 2050* increased by £5.8m (15.4%) in 2022-23 to £43.6m (£43.6m resource and £0.05m capital), with further increases of £3m (6.9%) in resource in 2023-24 and £3.5m (7.5%) in 2024-25.

In the final budget 2023-24, the total Welsh language budget builds on the indicative budgets set last year, with an increase of £0.199m in 2023-24 and £0.151m in 2024-25. By 2024-25, the total indicative budget for Welsh language will be £50.2m (£50.157m resource and £0.05m capital). The budget allocated to deliver *Cymraeg 2050* has therefore been gradually increasing over the 6th reporting cycle, partly due to the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru.

Although the Minister for Education and Welsh Language is responsible for implementing *Cymraeg 2050* within Welsh Government, every Minister has a role to play. The Welsh language is mainstreamed across multiple portfolio areas and therefore expenditure across the Welsh Government contributes to the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*.

Part I

Article 6

What measures have been taken to inform the authorities (including regional and/or local), organisations and persons concerned of the rights and duties established by the Charter, as required by its Article 6.

Welsh has been an official language in Wales since 2011 due to Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Section 61(k) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 gives the Welsh Ministers the power to do anything that they consider appropriate to support the Welsh language. The Welsh Ministers have the power to do things that are conducive or incidental to their other functions by virtue of the common law executive function transferred to them by section 58A of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Our Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050*, was launched in 2017 and has since been well established. The level of ambition in Wales often exceeds the articles contained in the Charter. When drafting *Cymraeg 2050* in 2017, we ensured that the new strategy covered all areas of the Charter and much more. Welsh Ministers work alongside stakeholders from various sectors to deliver the strategy. The public sector uses the strategy to mainstream their language planning work across all policy areas.

Part II

Part II and III will provide evidence against all articles, following the recommended structure as follows:

- i.) Implementation measures taken in policies and/or legislation; any other relevant legal changes;
- ii.) Implementation measures taken in practice (including concrete examples);
- iii.) If applicable, measures taken to implement the related recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts.

Article 7

Para 1. In respect of regional or minority languages, within the territories in which such languages are used and according to the situation of each language, the Parties shall base their policies, legislation and practice on the following objectives and principles:

Para 1(a) the recognition of the regional or minority languages as an expression of cultural wealth;

The National Eisteddfod for Wales

As noted in subsequent sections of this report, the Welsh Government fully recognises the importance of the Welsh language as an integral part of Wales' culture and expression of cultural wealth. Some of our most notable work in this area includes an annual grant in the region of £1m to the National Eisteddfod for Wales. Eisteddfod, or plural, Eisteddfodau, are an integral part of Welsh culture. The National Eisteddfod is a festival that attracts over 100,000 visitors annually, all of whom experience Welsh-medium events, workshops, art and culture first hand during the weeklong event. The Eisteddfod celebrates traditional and contemporary culture hand in hand, from *dawnsio gwerin* (traditional folk dance), *Cerdd Dant* (a traditional form of song accompanied by harp) to rap and hip-hop gigs, literary events and competitions – all of which are organised, held and hosted in Welsh.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru

The Urdd is a vital partner in delivering the Welsh Government's Welsh language strategy. The national youth organisation creates opportunities for young people across Wales to use their Welsh in fun and informal settings. £150,000 of Welsh Government funding is invested annually to develop opportunities across Wales for young people to take part in sporting opportunities through the medium of Welsh. Investment is put into the community programme, focussing on community club development, family opportunities, appropriate competitive opportunities and workforce development. During the current financial year, the Welsh Government has also contributed £40,000 to the Urdd Urban Games event – an event that celebrates the Welsh language through street games including BMX, scooter, bouldering and other 'non-traditional' games.

In addition to the support given to the Urdd in the area of sports, the Welsh Government have committed £1m to the Urdd over 5 years to re-establish their national Welsh-medium youth theatre, *Y Cwmni*. The youth theatre will perform its first production since re-establishing in September 2023 where hundreds of audience members are expected to attend the performances. It will provide an invaluable opportunity for young people to develop skills as performers and back-stage, all through the medium of Welsh. It will give them confidence to

perform, to use their Welsh language skills outside of formal school settings and may inspire some to follow career paths in this area in the future.

World Cup Partner Support Fund

Wales qualifying for the 2022 FIFA Men's Football World Cup in Qatar, their first since 1958, provided an opportunity to showcase the Welsh language on a global platform. The Football Association of Wales (FAW) have been praised in recent years for their use of Welsh in their marketing campaigns and used the opportunity to hold the first press conference in Welsh ever at a World Cup, held by Tottenham Hotspurs player, Ben Davies. The official team anthem chosen for the campaign was also a popular Welsh language protest song named 'Yma o Hyd' sung by Dafydd Iwan and the 'Wal Goch', the name given to the Welsh supporters collectively. The FAW supported by the Welsh Government organised events through partnerships across Wales through the Partner Support Fund, under the umbrella of Gŵyl Cymru.

The World Cup Partner Support Fund was launched with the aim of adding value to a small number of exceptional projects supporting our core objectives for Wales' participation in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. These include: the promotion of Wales; projecting our values; ensuring the safety of Welsh citizens at the event; and securing a positive and lasting legacy.

A total of 97 bids were received to the value of £7.1m from a wide variety of organisations, representing a diverse and complementary mix of activities, with a strong geographical and demographic spread. The Welsh Government supported 19 organisations that received a total of £1.8m. Many of the projects, such as those of the FAW and Urdd Gobaith Cymru, used the funding to promote our culture and the Welsh language in their activities in Qatar, at home in Wales and across the world.

Culture

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 includes a goal of achieving 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language' – this is central to the new culture strategy, currently in development. The importance of the Welsh language as it links to our nation's history and culture is recognised.

Cultural organisations across Wales are already encouraged to support their workforces in acquiring and developing Welsh language skills and this will continue. These skills, the use of the Welsh language, and the visibility of the Welsh language across the cultural sectors in Wales will be supported by the strategy.

The [National Library of Wales](#) and [Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales](#) are both subject to Welsh Language Standards. Both organisations deliver a range of services (including frontline public services for visitors) and resources in Welsh and English. They care for and provide public access to a range of cultural heritage and archival material in the medium of Welsh, including multimedia items such as film, tv clips, home recordings, oral history, and popular music. Both organisations have ongoing programmes to increase the accessibility of items in their collections, including material in Welsh, through digitisation and online delivery.

As one of the six UK and Ireland legal deposit libraries, the National Library of Wales is eligible to receive a copy of all printed and non-print publications under UK legislation and has an extensive collection of published material in the Welsh language.

The [Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales](#) was established by Royal Warrant 'to provide for the survey and recording of ancient and historical monuments and constructions connected with, or illustrative of, the contemporary culture, civilisation and

conditions of the life of the people in Wales from the earliest times'. In doing so, the Royal Commission provides a range of services, sources, and resources through the medium of Welsh and English.

Each of our cultural Arm's Length Bodies (Amgueddfa Cymru, the National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and the [Arts Council of Wales](#)) received a Term of Government Remit Letter from the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism in December 2021. The key deliverables for 2021-2026 include responding to the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy by continuing to increase the number of Welsh speakers, the use of the Welsh language, and by creating favourable conditions in which the Welsh language can thrive. Officials have quarterly meetings with each of the Arm's Length Bodies where developments in relation to key deliverables are monitored.

Event Wales

One of the 3 key themes of the new National Events Strategy for Wales 2023-2030 is Authenticity. Events in Wales should have a distinct '*Welshness*'. To support this, all events receiving Welsh Government Event Wales grant funding are encouraged to take a creative and inclusive approach to use of the Welsh language. Advice and guidance is offered to ensure these are in line with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, including signposting to the Welsh Government's 'Helo Blod' translation and advice service.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the events industry significantly during 2020-22 with most events unable to take place during this time. In response to this, a Cultural Recovery Fund was made available. In total, around £24m was provided to support events in Wales including the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod and the annual Welsh language festival held in Cardiff, Tafwyl.

Events that were able to take place, with the support of Event Wales funding, included Gŵyl, a digital amalgamation of several existing festivals which showcased a number of Welsh language artists, and a digital version of Tafwyl. More recently, in 2022, we supported 'Gŵyl Triban' as part of the Urdd Eisteddfod's Centenary celebrations.

The Books Council of Wales (BCW)

The Books Council of Wales (BCW) provides grants to authors and illustrators of Welsh language books, publishes an annual catalogue of books and educational resources for children and young people, as well as two seasonal book catalogues. It organises several events and social media campaigns under the LlyfrDa / FabBook brand to promote reading and literacy. The materials used in these campaigns are Welsh language books and books from Wales. Ensuring that all pupils in Wales have a book at home was a key aim of the CaruDarllen scheme (£4.7m from the Welsh Government's Education Department), but by leading with good quality Welsh language books, they were able to demonstrate the variety that exists within the Welsh language scene, as well as the economic benefits to publishers and authors.

Activity undertaken by BCW are aligned to Welsh Government priorities including promotion of the Welsh language. The work of BCW is to help promote the Welsh language and increase the provision of Welsh language services and content. This includes working in partnership with other Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies to liaise with members of *Grŵp Hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg* (Welsh Promotion Group) to share relevant information and identify shared learning and training opportunities.

In 2018, BCW supported publishers to begin producing the first 20 books in the Amdani series. This series is closely aligned with the National Centre for Learning Welsh's four levels of learning and with our ambition to reach 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Since then, the sector has produced 40 titles in paper, e-book and audio formats and they are consistently among the best sellers.

BCW continues to work with both existing and new partners, such as Literature Wales, who play a key role in supporting and developing future Welsh writers and authors. This includes the appointment of the Welsh language Children's Poet Laureate to raise the profile of poetry amongst children and young people.

The recent New Audiences Fund (£610K from Creative Wales, Welsh Government) went to address some of the challenges of increasing diversity in content and authorship of Welsh language books especially with regards to authors from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, given the smaller numbers of Welsh speakers from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

Another project, Perthyn / Belonging (£800K from the Welsh Government's Education Department) will also provide 30 adaptations for children of all ages with a focus on diversity, as well as 10 original titles which will be published in both Welsh and English along with education resources for schools.

The international acknowledgement afforded to Welsh authors such as Manon Steffan Ros (winner of the 2023 Carnegie Medal for Writers, with the first book in translation ever to win the prize) and Caryl Lewis serves as an example that Wales and the Welsh-language can produce world class cultural wealth, worthy of sharing with the rest of the world.

Wales Arts International

As part of the first year of the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages, Wales Arts International are funding artists in Wales to nurture the art of listening to endangered languages and indigenous communities, and to learn about their efforts in protecting the land they inhabit.

The programme, named 'Gwranddo' was launched by poet [Mererid Hopwood's call to listen](#) to the linguistic landscape of the world. The deliberate choice of the word landscape and the connection between language and the environment is a call to action – to listen to the diversity of languages for the same benefits that are appreciated in the diversity of species within the natural world.

Gwranddo is also about de-colonising our attitudes to languages and cultures in the context of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. This means learning about existing bridges between Wales and indigenous communities globally. Wales has a duality of experience of colonialism, both as the homeland of an oppressed language and culture but also as part of an Empire that has colonised many countries and cultures around the world.

We expect to think again about our own histories with indigenous cultures around the globe by listening to the impact of British colonisation of languages in countries where many speakers have lost and are reclaiming their languages and sharing our experience of language re-vitalisation.

In 2023, Llais y Lle ('the voice of place') is a fund launched by Arts Council of Wales that will support creative individuals to work with particular communities to develop the use and widen the ownership of the Welsh language. Llais y Lle will be supporting individuals, or a group of people, who are passionate about the Welsh language and who have experience of working creatively with communities through the medium of Welsh.

Para 1(b) the respect of the geographical area of each regional or minority language in order to ensure that existing or new administrative divisions do not constitute an obstacle to the promotion of the regional or minority language in question;

Please refer to the evidence provided in the 5th report.

In addition, local authorities hold Welsh Language Forums and Welsh in Education Forums to work in partnership across all sectors in relation to language policy matters. Welsh Government officers attend the forums across all local authorities: to monitor developments; to respond promptly to local education planning issues; and to share important information regarding developments in education affecting the implementation of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (see Part III, Chapter 8).

The Welsh Local Government Association brings together officials in all local authorities in Wales to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of language planning and compliance, in a network called 'Rhwydiath'. Guest speakers are invited to discuss issues relating to the language, and good practice is exchanged.

Champion for promoting Welsh-medium education

The post of Champion for promoting Welsh-medium education in the south-east region has recently been funded. This work is in collaboration between local authorities, the mentrau iaith (Welsh language initiatives) and a host of other partners in the region. The role involves work to:

- Raise the profile of Welsh-medium education provision across the region, for example by creating dedicated social media accounts and sharing new content and relevant content from partners.
- Promote current and future provision of Welsh-medium education.
- Share information about Welsh-medium education with current and prospective parents, young people, education professionals, the community at large, and all other key stakeholders.
- Work with statutory and third sector organisations to promote the choice of Welsh-medium education for children and the benefits of bilingualism.
- Develop relationships with English-medium schools, and other education providers teaching Welsh as a second language, to promote Welsh-language provision across the region.
- Work with partners, collaborate on funding bids for projects either locally, cross-boundary or across the region that will align with the aims of the role and relevant targets within their 5- year strategies and / or Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) regarding the promotion of Welsh-medium education and the benefits of bilingualism.
- Collaborate with Local Authority Communication and Education teams to publicise Welsh-medium proposals, consultations and news stories within the region.
- Provide training for admissions staff so that they can explain the benefits of Welsh-medium education and that it is a real choice for all parents.
- Work with partners, developing training packages, for example aimed at specific staff in local authorities such as Admissions Officers, to ensure that they have a full understanding of their roles in promoting Welsh-medium education.

Para 1(c) the need for resolute action to promote regional or minority languages in order to safeguard them;

Our current [Cymraeg 2050: Work Programme 2021 to 2026](#) provides a strategic and high-level overview of areas that the Welsh Government will focus on during the current Senedd term.

In addition, Section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 places a duty on Welsh Ministers to publish an annual action plan explaining how they will implement the proposals outlined in their language strategy during each financial year. Therefore, [Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy action plan 2023 to 2024](#) compiles all areas of work and actions that the Welsh Government will undertake during the current financial year.

Promotion and marketing

Much of our work, as detailed in this report, promotes the Welsh language either nationally or internationally. Since the submission of the 5th periodic report to the Council of Europe, substantial efforts have been made in promoting and marketing the Welsh language. Further details are provided at Article 7.1(d) below and indeed throughout this report.

Welsh Language Standards

As detailed in our previous report, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes provision for the creation of a Welsh Language Standards system. At section 38(3), the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 permits the creation of promotion standards (*standard relating to any activity that is intended to promote or facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely*) to be made specifically applicable to local authorities, national parks and other bodies who give their consent to having promotion standards placed upon them.

As a result of the promotion standards included in the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Welsh Language Commissioner has placed duties on local authorities and national parks in Wales to adopt strategies to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language in their areas.

Furthermore, the Welsh Language Standards Regulations' policy making standards place duties on the bodies to which they apply to consider the effect of their policy on the Welsh language.

As well as fulfilling the statutory function of imposing standards on bodies, the Commissioner works outside the legislative system to promote the use of Welsh within other sectors. The Commissioner has worked with specific sectors, for example banks and supermarkets to share best practice and encourage them to offer more Welsh language services. The Commissioner has the 'Cynnig Cymraeg / Welsh Offer' scheme which gives official recognition to bodies and companies with a strong strategy to promote the Welsh language and offer Welsh language services.

Promoting Welsh-medium education

We have continued to develop our campaigns to support the pathway to Welsh-medium education. We have worked closely with local authorities to improve the information provided to parents and prospective parents. Virtual sessions were held as part of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) Support Programme (please refer to Part III, articles 8.1(b)(i) and 8.1(c)(i)) presenting our advocacy strategy to support plans to promote Welsh-medium education. They are based on the principles of choice architecture and the EAST (Easy, Attractive, Social and Timely) framework.

Communications and marketing sub-committees, established by many local authorities by now, have helped to improve this information and ensure it is delivered across the work of the local authority, as well as other partners locally and nationally. A number of local authorities have noted in their WESPs, which came into force on 1 September 2022, a commitment to appointing dedicated officers to focus on the WESP, or to promote Welsh-medium education, for example Newport, Bridgend, Powys and Denbighshire.

A series of videos have been developed with teachers and parents to answer the most common questions being asked about Welsh-medium education. A video has also been developed to explain more about the school categorisation system. These resources are aimed primarily at parents and people who care for children. They will also be shared with local authorities so that they can be used through their own communication channels.

RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh-medium education)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we commissioned RhAG to create a [website](#) and a support forum for parents, paying particular attention to non-Welsh-speaking parents with children in Welsh-medium education. The website provides a convenient forum for parents to discuss their concerns about their children's Welsh language skills. The site is a directory containing links to a wide range of Welsh language resources available on a variety of digital platforms and supports the fantastic work undertaken by schools to develop children's bilingual skills at home.

Para 1(d) the facilitation and/or encouragement of the use of regional or minority languages, in speech and writing, in public and private life;

Promotion and marketing

Since the last reporting period, a more segmented approach to supporting policy interventions has been adopted. Campaigns are targeted at specific audiences and at specific periods or during major events.

An example of a seasonal mini campaign would be the campaign targeting football fans and those exposed to the coverage before and during the 2022 FIFA Men's Football World Cup in partnership with the National Centre for Learning Welsh and the Football Association of Wales. The 'Our Team, Our Language' campaign used emotive contributions from fans who had learnt Welsh in order to drive people to a specially created subsite encouraging them to commit to formally learning Welsh.

All of our campaigns and communications use the new 'Llais' or the Cymraeg tone of voice that relies on emotional pull over a transactional approach. Please see article 7.3 for further information (Welsh Language Narrative Development).

Other targeted campaigns have included:

Helo Blod

In 2020, the Cymraeg in Business service evolved from a face-to-face advice service only to a free translation and advice service called 'Helo Blod'. The service now helps individuals, businesses, charities and third sector organisations to use more Welsh by offering practical advice as well as free translations up to 500 words a month, as well as a Welsh text-checking service. Since its launch, Helo Blod has passed the 1 million words translated into Welsh milestone and has dealt with 10,000 individual requests.

The service has been promoted nationally in the form of television and radio adverts, out of home campaigns such as on buses in cities and towns as well as digitally across social media and in online publications. It ensures that the Welsh language is more visible for those living and working in Wales as well as those who visit on holiday or with business.

Dydd Miwsig Cymru / Welsh Language Music Day

Dydd Miwsig Cymru or Welsh Language Music Day, the Welsh Government's annual celebration of music made in Welsh, is now in its 8th year. The day aims to increase the visibility of the Welsh language, to increase interest in learning Welsh, to change people's perception of the language as well as providing opportunities for people to use the language informally.

The day celebrates the vibrant Welsh language music scene and showcases the talents of artists across all genres through events held across Wales and beyond. As well as frequently trending on social media platforms it has proved a successful way of creating partnerships with businesses and for them to show their commitment to Welsh. The Welsh Government has worked with companies such as Marks & Spencer, EE, KFC, The Co-operative, John Lewis and Admiral in various forms to promote Welsh language music.

As part of the 2023 celebration, we announced a new £100,000 fund to help promoters and community groups host live shows through mentoring and skills-sharing schemes. The scheme, called Miwsig, focuses on supporting communities to create spaces to use Welsh through live music in their communities.

Welsh Language Music Day has proved popular with schools across Wales. During the past 5 years, we have seen hundreds of schools participating in competitions with young people creating raps or pop songs in Welsh, participating in lessons on the history of Welsh language music and its impact on politics and society in Wales, gigs and discos visiting schools as well as live-streamed gigs available to all.

Grant funding

Every year, we allocate grants via our Grant Scheme to Promote and Facilitate the Use of Welsh to external organisations for example the Urdd, the National Eisteddfod of Wales, Merched y Wawr, Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru, Young Farmers Wales and the Papurau Bro. They create a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to use Welsh.

In June 2023, we published a review of the [Welsh Government grant scheme to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language](#). This review will aid us in building a new grants scheme aligned to our *Cymraeg 2050* strategy in the future with the aim of increasing language use.

Language use amongst children and young people

Language use is a key priority for the Welsh Government. In all of our work, we continuously refer to the fact that using the language is as important as creating new speakers.

The Siarter Iaith (*Welsh Language Charter*) is a national programme consisting of a range of delivery partners. The Welsh Government invests £702k per annum in this intervention. The programme has four strands which focus on different educational settings both in regards of the age of the pupils and the linguistic categories of schools.

The programme enables children and young people to:

- Become intuitive, natural, comfortable, proud and confident Welsh speakers.
- Become citizens who use Welsh of their own volition.
- Speak Welsh with friends whatever their linguistic backgrounds.
- Confidently use their Welsh and have a positive attitude towards it.

The aim of the Siarter Iaith, which is funded by the Welsh Government, is to increase the informal use of Welsh by children and young people in social situations and 423 schools participate in the programme. It requires participation on a whole-school basis. Schools are expected to devise action plans which include priorities and targets based on data collected on pupils' use of the Welsh language. This data is collected through questionnaires, which are completed by pupils to record their social use of Welsh in the classroom, on the playground, in the community and at home. As they implement their action plans, schools work towards bronze, silver and gold awards. Awards are given by regional education consortia after they visit schools to validate the evidence collected by schools to demonstrate that they have delivered their Siarter Iaith plans successfully.

Cymraeg Campus is delivered in English-medium primary schools and aims to promote and increase the use of Welsh. Following the Siarter Iaith model, schools work towards bronze, silver and gold awards, aiming towards increasingly challenging targets along the way.

The Siarter Iaith Uwchradd programme is administered by regional consortia who provide a grant to secondary schools in order to support projects or activities to increase the informal and social use of Welsh.

Cymraeg Bob Dydd provides opportunities for pupils in English-medium secondary schools to extend their use of Welsh. The programme is delivered by Urdd Gobaith Cymru, who arrange activities to foster pupils' confidence in Welsh, increase their use of the language, and encourage them to continue to study Welsh as a subject at AS and A-Level.

The Siarter Iaith framework is currently being reviewed by Welsh Government officials and Siarter Iaith National Co-ordinators to continuously improve provision.

Welsh Language Standards

The Welsh Language Standards system (discussed in more detail at Part III under Article 10) contributes to the facilitation and encouragement of the use of Welsh. Seven sets of Welsh Language Regulations have been passed to date which apply to over 130 bodies. The standards aim, amongst other policy objectives, to increase the use people make of Welsh language services. In pursuit of this policy objective, some standards include requiring bodies to proactively offer services in Welsh. This is in recognition of the principle that an increase in use of services in a minority language can be achieved through proactively offering them to speakers of the minority language.

Furthermore, the Welsh Language Standards Regulations specify operational standards which place duties on bodies to which they apply to provide Welsh language services to staff when providing corporate functions such as training, recruitment and HR services. This is a step forward in promoting the Welsh language as enabling the use of Welsh in the workplace

has the potential to improve people's confidence to use Welsh in the home and the community.

Welsh Language Technology

Ensuring that the Welsh language has a strong infrastructure and that Welsh speakers have access to technology that will support their use of the language in every aspect of their lives is a central part of our Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*.

In 2018, the Welsh Government published its [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#) (and in 2020 a [report on progress](#) to date against the Plan's targets). This built on its [Welsh-language Technology and Digital Media Action Plan](#) of 2012, the contents of which were outlined in the previous reporting cycle.

The 2018 *Welsh Language Technology Action Plan* concentrates on three main themes:

- Welsh Language Speech Technology
- Computer-assisted Translation
- Conversational Artificial Intelligence

Open Software Philosophy

The Plan espouses an open licencing philosophy which means that when the Welsh Government commissions an item under the plan, it normally expects that item to be made available under a suitably permissive licence, free of charge to all to use and reuse.

Free Grammar checker and Spellchecker to build confidence

As part of the Welsh Government's funding agreement with Bangor University, in 2020, Cysgliad, the Welsh language grammar and spell-checker and a series of dictionaries has been made available free of charge to individuals, organisations with ten or fewer employees, and to all schools in Wales. We are aware that many lack confidence in their Welsh when they're creating content in Welsh. Our aim in releasing Cysgliad for free is to build that confidence thereby increasing the amount of Welsh that is written. At the time of compiling this report, there had been more than 12,000 downloads of the free version of Cysgliad.

Speech Technology

We have also funded projects in Welsh language speech recognition. This has the potential to offer future benefits for Welsh-speakers who are using digital assistants more and more for accessibility purposes. A recent development of this is a proof-of-concept bilingual speech recognition engine which can recognise Welsh and English at the same time. As so many of our lives are bilingual in Welsh and English, and as so many of us use both languages in our working lives (not Welsh alone), this bilingual speech recognition may help Welsh in the bilingual workplace of the future and will enable both languages to be used at once in a given setting (rather than having separate recognition engines which have to be separately configured in a given context). We have also funded several free Welsh language synthetic voices also available free of charge.

Schools and Welsh language Technology

From November 2020, the default interface language for Microsoft Office 365 changed from English to Welsh for learners in schools that teach through the medium of Welsh. This affected 78,086 learners in 379 schools. This is an example of the marrying of behavioural theory to human computer action in bilinguals and means that all those learners can have a Welsh language experience without having to ask or search for it.

As a result of our school coding campaign 'Cracking the Code', a large number of coding learning resources are available bilingually. This has the potential to open up coding, digital transformation and other digital professions to a wider audience.

Working with large technology companies

Our work with the major technology companies e.g. Microsoft is a good example of how the public sector has worked with international technology companies. For 20+ years, Microsoft's Welsh language provision has increased, from a spell-checker, to a series of user interfaces (Windows, Office, SharePoint) and other tools that enable the use of Welsh (the Welsh Language Board began this work and it was transferred to the Welsh Government on the abolition of the Board in 2012). These are all available free of charge and have been created without financial expense to the state.

We have a constructive relationship and an ongoing dialogue with Microsoft about many matters, Welsh language provision being just one. We recognised at the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown that Microsoft software such as Microsoft Teams, facilitated the continuation of organisations' work. We also realised it was a problem to hold these video meetings bilingually via simultaneous human interpretation (other software already offered this facility). We made the case for introducing the ability to offer simultaneous human interpretation to its Teams software and started a partnership with Microsoft to test and quality assure the functionality. We jointly launched [Language Interpretation for Microsoft Teams Scheduled Meetings](#) in August 2022. This is part of the out-of-the-box facility for Teams and, as a result of the Welsh Government's partnership with Microsoft, works for languages all over the world.

Driving the market for multilingual software

Our work in procurement, together with our openly-licensed free software philosophy will also facilitate the future development of bilingual software by all manufacturers.

The principle that technology procured with Welsh public money should work smoothly in Welsh is important. To ensure this we've produced [guidance](#) to include in tender specifications and / or calls of different types that require technology. This guidance leads suppliers through an easy process to make sure the product they create works bilingually. The guide also offers signposts for more detailed technical advice and, if that advice does not answer a question about technology and the Welsh language, we welcome enquiries to our officials. The long-term ambition is that our procurement will drive the market for bilingual software in Wales. Of course, the principles of the work will apply to many multilingual situations around the world, and we'll be sharing the work with our national and international partners.

The Books Council of Wales (BCW)

The Welsh Government's support for Welsh language publishing is channelled through BCW which received grant funding of £1,696,050 from the Welsh Government via Creative Wales during 2022-23 to support Welsh language publishing.

This funding was distributed by BCW to:

- Support the publishing of new Welsh language books.
- Support authors, illustrators, photographers and designers.
- Support Welsh language magazines and online news.
- Support 10 creative editors posts within the publisher.
- Support independent booksellers.
- Support the marketing of new books as well as research.

The daily Welsh online news service [Golwg360](#) (an independent charity) continues to deliver an independent Welsh language news website with £200k of funding per annum.

BCW also supports a variety of magazines with a grant of £380,000. Following a tender process conducted during the autumn of 2022, 13 titles were successful in securing funding for four years (2023-2027) aimed at the leisure (2,850), literary (600), current affairs (2,200) and children's (1,650) markets. [Sales targets are noted in brackets].

Following additional funding of £135,000 from Creative Wales within Welsh Government, two new magazines will be launched in 2023: *Hanes Byw* (Welsh history) and an online service dedicated to Welsh football, through the medium of Welsh. This funding also allowed other magazines to review their current structure and look for a more sustainable model, given funding constraints. Two applicants were provided with one year funding, *Y Traethodydd* (literary essays) and *Fferm a Thyddyn* (agricultural history) and development funding was provided to *Klust* (Welsh language music) and *Codi Pais* (women's Welsh literature).

Having 10 Welsh language editors in post within the publishers are essential, as they encourage the commissioning of innovative work, as well as ensure the quality of the Welsh language is maintained but allowing regional and diverse voices.

Para 1(e) the maintenance and development of links, in the fields covered by this Charter, between groups using a regional or minority language and other groups in the State employing a language used in identical or similar form, as well as the establishment of cultural relations with other groups in the State using different languages;

The British-Irish Council (BIC)

The BIC Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages (IML) work sector is chaired by the Welsh Government and focusses on nine languages: Cornish, Gaelic, Guernesiais, Irish, Jèrriais, Manx, Scots, Ulster-Scots, and Welsh. Each IML language is at a different stage in terms of the number of speakers and social use of those languages but working together within the BIC provides Member Administrations with an opportunity to share emerging good practice, seek inspiration and nurture new connections and relations with others who work in the same field. The importance of learning from each other and collaboration formally or informally cannot be underestimated – it validates efforts and allows an opportunity to inform each other's policy work.

Since 2019, it has focused on sharing best practice within the following areas:

- Supporting the Social Use of Language.
- Exploring the role of Early Years Policy in IML language use.
- Collaboration on Infrastructure / Technology / Economic Impact to support IML languages.

- In November 2021, a BIC summit held in Wales and attended by heads of state discussed a paper on the importance of the early years in language planning.

The Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD)

Over the sixth reporting period, the Welsh Government has retained its membership of the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity ([NPLD](#)).

The Welsh Government has continued to participate in the General Assemblies of the NPLD, the most recent of which was held in Rennes, Brittany in June 2023 where Welsh Government officials held a session on language transmission within the family.

In October 2022, the Welsh Government and the NPLD jointly organised a dedicated conference to discuss breathing spaces for minority languages. These spaces, originally popularised by Fishman in his seminal volume *Reversing Language Shift* (1991) are vital domains, networks, physical locations or any other space in which a minority language can be used, and which encourages or leads to its reproduction. Guest speakers at the conference included the Government of the Basque Autonomous Community, representatives of the Scottish Gaelic Community and of Irish.

Our work continues with language communities around the world and we regularly engage in discussion with colleagues in Ireland, Catalunya and New Zealand, to name a few.

UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages

2019 was UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages. Our aim, in taking part, was to raise Wales' profile internationally as a bilingual country and to strengthen Wales as one of the leading countries in terms of linguistic regeneration. The Minister visited UNESCO's headquarters in Paris to discuss our work in relation the Welsh language.

As a culmination of the UNESCO year in November 2019, we held the Our Voice in the World Festival in Aberystwyth in partnership with Aberystwyth University. The festival included a series of talks, discussion panels and performances to celebrate Welsh as a vibrant and living language. Discussion themes included the following, highlighting the experience of Wales and other countries:

- Language learning and use
- Language, literature, the arts and media
- Language policy and planning.

Please also refer to the Wales Arts International section at Article 7.1.a) above.

The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan

In 2022, the Minister for Social Justice published an action plan to make Wales an anti-racist nation by 2030. [The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan](#) has a dedicated section on the Welsh language. The plan notes, '*We have an expansionist and inclusive vision for the Welsh language. Welsh is a language that belongs to us all, and is a way of uniting people from different backgrounds. Learning new languages can make us as individuals more open to other cultures. We celebrate the linguistic diversity of Wales and recognise that learning and using a second or third language can enrich people's lives*'.

Section 149 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 places a statutory duty on the Welsh Government to appoint a Welsh Language Partnership Council to advise Ministers on all matters relating to the Welsh language (see Article 7, paragraph 4 above). In recent years,

the Partnership Council has established an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion subgroup. The majority of the subgroup members are Welsh speakers from the ethnic minority community. The focus of the group to date has been on advising Welsh Government's *Cymraeg 2050* officials on matters relating to anti-racism and the Welsh language.

On 20 March 2023, the Welsh Government, through the work of our partners, held a panel event to discuss the Welsh language in relation to our *Anti-racist Wales Action Plan* and further education. The event, *Perthyn*, which was held at Senedd Cymru (Wales' National Parliament) was well-attended and well-received by participants. This event was the first of its kind in Wales.

Para 1(f) the provision of appropriate forms and means for the teaching and study of regional or minority languages at all appropriate stages;

Please refer to PART III, and pay particular attention to 8.1(ai), 8.1(bi), 8.1(ci), 8.1(div), 8.1(eiii) and 8.1(fii).

Para 1(g) the provision of facilities enabling non-speakers of a regional or minority language living in the area where it is used to learn it if they so desire;

Please refer to PART III, and pay particular attention to 8.1(ai), 8.1(bi), 8.1(ci), 8.1(div), 8.1(eiii) and 8.1(fii).

Para 1(h) the promotion of study and research on regional or minority languages at universities or equivalent institutions;

The Welsh Government has promoted research activity with university researchers through commissioning work as part of its research programme for Welsh language planning policy. In 2018 two research studies were published to inform the teaching and learning of Welsh as a second language: [an overview of approaches to second language acquisition and instructional practices](#) (February 2018), and [a rapid evidence assessment of Effective second language teaching approaches and methods](#) (June 2018). Since 2021, the Welsh Government has engaged with a collaborative research network on Welsh-medium and bilingual education, one of four networks established as part of the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Educational Research and Enquiry. This network has representation from higher education institutions across Wales, and its remit is to identify areas for collaborative research activity across universities, including with researchers beyond Wales.

The Welsh Government is supporting collaborative PhDs in areas of Welsh-medium education, and bilingualism / multilingualism in education, as part of a joint-funded studentship programme with the Economic and Social Research Council Wales Doctoral Training Partnership. This programme offers PhD internships which give students the opportunity to work on policy-related research activity. Two studies undertaken through these internships have been published: [a study of late immersion provision in Wales](#) and a [review of assessment in language learning](#).

A [Research and Evaluation Framework for Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers](#) was published in 2022. The purpose of the Framework is to provide guidance on collecting evidence and data, assessing progress, and evaluating the impact of *Cymraeg 2050* as it is

implemented and developed. The Framework is intended to inform the Welsh Government's programme of analytical work, and facilitate a process of ensuring that policy development is aligned with the aims of the strategy. It is also intended to support a collaborative process that will enable the Welsh Government to work with other organisations and bodies undertaking research and evaluation, to develop the evidence base for *Cymraeg 2050*.

As part of its research agenda, the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol supports doctoral students through its Welsh-medium Research Scholarship Scheme. These scholarships (which are equal in value to UKRI scholarships and pay the tuition fees in full and provide a stipend for the student) are for three years and around ten are awarded each year. The scheme has been going since 2005 (the Coleg continued the scheme from its predecessor, the Centre for Welsh-medium Higher Education) and since then, a 100 students have successfully completed their PhDs with the Coleg's support, and another 50 students are currently being funded with a scholarship or in the process of completing their research and preparing their theses for submission. Applications to the scheme are made by the universities.

The aim of the scheme is to develop researchers of the highest standard who can work through the medium of Welsh. Doctoral dissertations are researched and undertaken through the medium of Welsh, making a valuable contribution to scholarship and academic publications in the Welsh language, but also helping develop individuals who can compete for academic posts with the higher education sector and further contribute to Welsh-medium provision at university level.

These scholarships are available to all subject areas across the humanities, sciences and social sciences. Several of the research projects over the years have focused in some form or other on the Welsh language, either looking at Welsh literature, Welsh language theatre and film, Welsh language technology, linguistics, socio-linguistics, language psychology, language acquisition, learning pedagogies, and Welsh-medium education. One such research project, being undertaken within the Linguistics Department at Bangor University, is looking at the subject of "‘Learners’, ‘New Speakers’ and ‘Native Speakers’: accent and identity amongst individuals learning Welsh as adults". A more recent scholarship, which began earlier this academic year, has been awarded to Swansea University to look at the female voice within Welsh literature and its importance to diversity and inclusivity. And amongst the latest round of awards, to begin on 1 October 2023, is a scholarship that has been awarded to the School of Welsh and Celtic Studies at Aberystwyth University, to research 'The Power of the Poetry Film'.

Para 1(i) the promotion of appropriate types of transnational exchanges, in the fields covered by this Charter, for regional or minority languages used in identical or similar form in two or more States.

Patagonia

The [Welsh Language Project](#) (WLP) in Patagonia has run every year since it was established in 1997, promoting and developing the Welsh language in the Chubut region of Patagonia, Argentina. Every year three Language Development Officers from Wales go on placement to Patagonia. They develop the language in the Welsh-speaking communities through both formal teaching and informal social activities. A permanent Teaching Co-ordinator from Wales is also based in Patagonia, responsible for the quality of teaching.

Another aspect of the project is a network of Patagonian Welsh language tutors in the region. Through summer scholarships funded by the National Centre for Learning Welsh, Adult Learning courses give Patagonian educators opportunities to visit Wales to attend Welsh language courses, ensuring that the project helps maintain teaching standards and the latest

methodologies are in place. This project of reciprocal visits, teaching and training has achieved considerable recognition and success.

The WLP is managed by the British Council in collaboration with the WLP Committee. The committee includes members from the Welsh Government, British Council Wales, the Wales-Argentina Society, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Cardiff University School of Welsh, and the National Centre for Learning Welsh.

As Argentina was closed to all non-nationals for most of 2021-22 due to COVID-19, teachers from Wales were not able to locate in Patagonia for the Argentinian academic year. This impacted on both those employed directly by the bilingual schools in the region and those employed through the WLP. As a result, the local tutor network was wholly responsible for the provision of teaching in schools that year, attending training sessions to learn about teaching on-line, on-line platforms, and resources and apps provided by the Welsh Language Project Teaching Co-ordinators. Adult teaching provision continued through a tutor based in Wales who held on-line classes for secondary school pupils and adults at all levels. The move to online learning extended the reach of the project to accommodate students outside the normal catchment area of Welsh learning. Many of the innovative practices introduced during the pandemic continue to be in place today.

2022 saw the revival of the key in-person elements of the WLP following the pandemic, with three Language Development Officers recruited and taking up successful placements.

Culture

The People's Collection Wales (PCW) has continued its ongoing support of community heritage work in North America, providing Welsh-American heritage groups with a platform on which their archival material can be shared with a wider audience. PCW has built on the collaborative relationships that were established through their participation of the 2017 North American Festival of Wales (NAFoW) in Rochester, NY, in addition to longstanding support of community projects in Pittsburgh.

Notable collections include:

- The Welsh North American Association: [promoting Welsh cultural activities in North America](#).
- [Puget Sound Welsh Association](#): an umbrella group dedicated to co-ordinating the activities of various Welsh societies in the Puget Sound region and surrounding area. The Seattle Welsh Women's Club is a partnership fellowship of women in the in the Seattle area. Puget Sound have published over 1,600 archival items on PCW:
- Capel Rehoboth Delta PA: a short project which collated and published the history of [Rehoboth Chapel and Sunday School](#) in Pennsylvania.
- Wales PA: The [Wales-PA Project](#) is concerned with capturing and presenting the history of the Welsh in Pennsylvania, a pivotal part of the Welsh immigration to the United States of America.

Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain (London Welsh School)

The Welsh Government provides a £90,000 grant to Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain per academic year to deliver Welsh-medium education in London. This is part of the Government's wider aim to promote the language outside of Wales. The school takes pride in its responsibility to promote the Welsh language and culture in London and pupils participate in several events during the year, for example a St David's Day service at Westminster, concerts held at the London Welsh Centre and at the Urdd National Eisteddfod. When many of these families

return to live in Wales, the children are well-equipped to seamlessly enter Welsh-medium provision.

Also, please refer to:

- 7.1.a) Wales Arts International
- 12.3 Wales in France
- 12.3 Visits

Article 7

Para 2. The Parties undertake to eliminate, if they have not yet done so, any unjustified distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference relating to the use of a regional or minority language and intended to discourage or endanger the maintenance or development of it. The adoption of special measures in favour of regional or minority languages aimed at promoting equality between the users of these languages and the rest of the population or which take due account of their specific conditions is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely-used languages.

As in the previous report, developments related to this article are contained throughout this report where the Welsh Language Standards system and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 are referenced, particularly at Part III at Article 10. Reference should therefore be made to these sections of this report at this point.

Para 3. The Parties undertake to promote, by appropriate measures, mutual understanding between all the linguistic groups of the country and in particular the inclusion of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to regional or minority languages among the objectives of education and training provided within their countries and encouragement of the mass media to pursue the same objective.

Please refer to responses in previous reports.

Welsh Language Narrative Development

As part of our work to understand the 'brand' of the Welsh language (defined as what people *think* about Welsh and why), we undertook work to develop a narrative about the Welsh language. This entailed focus group work, and critical discourse analysis of policy and other documents which mentioned the Welsh language. The work recommended ways of improving the psychological resonance of our work, i.e. how it could better 'land' with target populations. We have developed a narrative about our language which is friendly, warm and welcoming and use it in our work. It is not a dedicated intervention in and of itself, but rather to be used in all our interventions, and in how we communicate in all forms about our language.

See the relevant sections of this report where we discuss promoting the Welsh language, particularly Article 7.1(d).

See also Article 7.1.(e), the British-Irish Council.

Para 4. In determining their policy with regard to regional or minority languages, the Parties shall take into consideration the needs and wishes expressed by the groups which use such languages. They are encouraged to establish bodies, if necessary, for the purpose of advising the authorities on all matters pertaining to regional or minority languages.

Please refer to:

- Article 7.1.(e) – **UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages (Our Voice in the World Festival)**
- Article 13.1(c) – the Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities

The Welsh Language Partnership Council (WLPC)

The WLPC is a statutory body established under section 149 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Partnership Council's role is to give advice or to make representations to the Welsh Ministers in relation to the Welsh language strategy adopted under section 78 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (including the annual Action Plans setting out how the Welsh Government will implement the proposals set out in the strategy). It provides independent advice during regular meetings held with the Minister for Education and Welsh Language.

The WLPC has also established various sub-groups to focus on specific elements of the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* for example one group concentrates on equality, inclusion and diversity.

The Welsh Language Commissioner

The Welsh Language Commissioner is an independent voice who monitors the Welsh Government's compliance with its Welsh Language Standards. Its main statutory aim is to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and it does so through regulation and promotion work.

Public consultations

Every time the Welsh Government drafts a new policy or piece of legislation, it holds a public consultation on its contents to gain the opinions of interested parties and stakeholders in order to strengthen our policies for example on:

- The Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan
- The Welsh Linguistic Infrastructure Policy
- The Welsh Language Education White Paper

Furthermore, consultations have been held with the public in relation to the Welsh

Language Standards Regulations. In 2020, we consulted on draft Regulations to apply standards to Healthcare Regulators, and in 2023 we consulted on draft standards Regulations for water companies. This provides an opportunity for the public, stakeholders, and the bodies themselves to contribute to the process of making regulations. Following the consultations held with the public, reports have been published which are available on the Welsh Government's [website](#).

Bodies are under various duties in relation to the use of the Welsh language in consultations (if they are required by the Commissioner in their compliance notice to comply). Reference

should be had to Standards 91, 92 and 93 of the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 as examples.

We also either host or attend regular conferences or seminars that focus on language policy to share best practice with colleagues from around the world for example:

- The Learned Society of Wales.
- The European Language Equality Network (ELEN): General Assembly held in Wales in October 2022.
- The International Conference on Minority Languages (ICML): held in Wales June 2023.

With regard to Article 7 para 4, please also specify how the bodies or associations which further the protection and promotion of the Welsh language and/or represent its speakers/users have been consulted with regard to the implementation of the Charter in general, the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers and the Committee of Experts and the drawing up of the periodical report.

As Welsh is an official language in Wales and has the full support of Welsh Government, the level of ambition in Wales often exceeds the articles contained in the Charter. When drafting *Cymraeg 2050* in 2017, we ensured that the new strategy covered all areas of the Charter and much more. Welsh Ministers work alongside stakeholders from various sectors to deliver the strategy.

The Charter is shared with the statutory Welsh Language Partnership Council, which advises the Welsh Government on all matters relating to Welsh language policy.

Part III

Article 8 – Education

Para 1. With regard to education, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used, according to the situation of each of these languages, and without prejudice to the teaching of the official language(s) of the State:

Para 1(a)(i) to make available pre-school education in the relevant regional or minority languages;

One of the key aims of our Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050* is to expand Welsh-medium provision in the early years as an access point for Welsh-medium education. Over the past 5 years, we have funded [Mudiad Meithrin](#) to lead on the expansion of this provision. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mudiad Meithrin have continued to reach their annual targets for expansion as part of the overall target of establishing 150 new provisions during the 10-year lifetime of the strategy.

In addition to our *Cymraeg 2050* expansion of provision, our Programme for Government commits us to continue our support for the Flying Start programme. Flying Start is the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme for families with children under 4 years old who live in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Wales. In 2021, the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru extended this commitment to deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two-year-olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh-medium provision.

This expansion is a phased approach. Phase one is now complete with Flying Start services being offered to over 3,178 additional children under 4 years old. We expect Phase 2 of the expansion, which commenced in mid-April 2023, to support over 4,500 additional 2-year-olds to access high quality Flying Start childcare. In 2024-25, Phase 3 will support around 5,200 additional 2-year-olds. During 2023-24 and 2024-25, we will further invest in expanding Flying Start.

Flying Start fully supports the Welsh Government's aim to ensure all our young people exit the education system ready and proud to use the Welsh language in all contexts. Local authorities are expected to ensure that Welsh-medium and bilingual services are promoted and available and that clear pathways to Welsh-medium education are available to families.

The Welsh Government's Childcare Offer for Wales was rolled out nationally in 2018. It provides 30 hours of free childcare for 48 weeks of the year for 3-4 year old children which include a minimum 10 hours of early years education. The main goal is to ensure parents who are in employment, or wish to return to work, are supported to do so by ensuring suitable and affordable childcare is available across Wales. It was initially targeted at parents in employment, and then eligibility was extended in September 2022 to include parents in education and training.

During the 2021/2022 academic year, 21,729 children received funded childcare through the Childcare Offer. At a national level, approximately 25% of this provision was at childcare settings that were delivered either bilingually or through the medium of Welsh.

In 2019, the First Minister announced that the core aim of the early childhood play, learning and care (ECPLC) approach (formally known as early childhood education and care (ECEC)

approach) was that all children should have a high-quality stimulating learning and care experience in any education and care setting they attend – in Welsh, English or bilingually. Eight principles under three themes underpin the approach to ECPLC in Wales. These themes are quality of provision, access to provision and supporting and developing the workforce. ECPLC is based on a child centred approach, with the child and child development at its heart.

In February 2022, the Cabinet agreed to the development of an ECPLC Action Plan. The plan will set out our approach to ECPLC for Wales and the actions we plan to take as part of the journey to achieving this approach. An ECPLC Quality Framework has been developed with the aim of ensuring that no matter which setting a child attends, expectations of their experience, of how they are supported and nurtured are the same and quality early childhood education and care is provided.

Established in 2014 the ‘Cwlwm’ partnership, funded by the Welsh Government brings together the five leading childcare organisations in Wales to deliver a bilingual integrated service that will ensure the best possible outcomes for children and families across Wales. ‘Cwlwm’ organisations are Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids’ Clubs, Early Years Wales, Mudiad Meithrin (lead organisation), National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA Cymru) and PACEY Cymru. The aim of ‘Cwlwm’ is to support the Welsh Government to ensure that families across Wales can access affordable, quality childcare providing innovative solutions to create flexible childcare and play opportunities to meet the needs of parents and their families.

In 2022 the Welsh Government provided an additional £3.787m in funding to ‘Cwlwm’ to support activities to expand Welsh-medium childcare and early years provision.

The Welsh Government also offers support for both parents and children with the aim of increasing numbers of children in Welsh-medium education as well as progression from early years on to statutory education. The ‘Cymraeg i Blant’ (Cymraeg for Kids) programme, continues to provide support and advice to use Welsh with free face-to-face and virtual sessions provided to parents and their children across Wales.

In 2021 the Welsh Government published its [National policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families](#) with the aim of ensuring the intergenerational transmission of the Welsh language within families. The policy builds on the findings of research in [Welsh language transmission and use in families](#), published in 2017, and a process evaluation of the Cymraeg i Blant programme (Cymraeg for Kids), published in February 2019.

As part of the policy, we’re undertaking pilot behaviour change projects to help those who can speak Welsh to do so with their children and help those whose Welsh hasn’t been part of their routine for a while to understand that they too can use Welsh with their children.

Para 1(b)(i) to make available primary education in the relevant regional or minority languages;

Para 1(c)(i) to make available secondary education in the relevant regional or minority languages;

Evidence against both 8.1(b)(i) and 8.1(c)(i) is included together below.

Proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill

The Welsh Government has committed to introducing a Welsh Language Education Bill during this Senedd term. The purpose of the Bill is to strengthen and increase Welsh language education provision across Wales to meet our *Cymraeg 2050* targets. The proposals in the White Paper for a Welsh Language Education Bill are presented in the context of the significant challenge posed by the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy, and the target of one million Welsh speakers. One of the proposals is to impose a duty on local authorities to take steps to promote Welsh-medium education. The aim of the duty would be to endeavour to ensure:

- *that the benefits of Welsh-medium education, along with the expected linguistic outcomes for children as a result of receiving Welsh-medium education, are proactively promoted among parents and carers, including parents and carers moving to an area of Wales.*
- *that late immersion provision is available in all local authorities and is proactively promoted as a method of building Welsh language skills in a short time so that Welsh-medium education can be provided at different access points.*

Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs)

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 came into force on 1 January 2020. The Regulations have been strengthened by:

- Removing the duty to carry out parental demand assessments and replace them with individual local authority targets, calculated by the Welsh Government to reflect our *Cymraeg 2050* expectation to significantly increase the percentage of learners who successfully learn Welsh.
- Extending the length of the WESPs from its previous 3-year planning cycle to 10 years to encourage improved strategic planning that not only aligns with *Cymraeg 2050*, but also Welsh Government funding programmes (e.g. capital funding programmes, Flying Start) and also reform agendas such as Curriculum for Wales and Additional Learning Needs.
- Strengthening the early introduction of Welsh-medium education by requiring local authorities to make better use of their childcare adequacy assessments when planning places in schools from the age of 3 onwards.

As a result, local authorities have prepared new, more ambitious schemes that provide opportunities for more learners, including those with additional learning needs, to access Welsh-medium education and learning opportunities. All local authority 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plans have been approved, published and are operational. Also, all 22 local authorities have developed action plans, which will be monitored annually, setting out in greater detail how they will deliver their WESPs during the first 5-years.

There are commitments in the WESPs to open 23 new Welsh primary schools and expand at least a further 25 primary schools. In areas where opening a new school is not an option, there are commitments to increase the amount of Welsh taught in English-medium and bilingual schools.

More children are receiving Welsh-medium education today than a decade ago – almost 24% of 5-year-olds are in Welsh-medium education. There is an increase of around 11,000 more learners in Welsh-medium education since 2011. This averages 1,000 more per year, or over 30 more classes per year. The WESPs have set ambitious targets to increase the percentage of learners in Welsh-medium education from 23% to 30% by the end of this decade.

The ambition is that everyone learning in a school or setting in Wales is supported to enjoy using the Welsh language, to make continued progress in learning Welsh and to have the confidence and language skills so that they can choose to use Welsh beyond the classroom.

All education reforms, which include the new Curriculum for Wales, will contribute to the development of Welsh language provision in schools and English-medium settings.

Some elements of the WESPs (e.g. increasing the number of teachers who can teach Welsh as a subject and other subjects through the medium of Welsh) make a direct contribution to the development of Welsh-medium provision in English-medium schools.

Welsh-medium capital grant

Since 2018, a total of £112m has been approved for Welsh-medium capital projects to drive forward growth in Welsh-medium education provision and another round of Welsh-medium capital funding is due to be approved. This is on top of any investment through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

The Welsh-medium capital grant has enabled investment in new Welsh-medium primary schools, extensions and refurbishment to increase capacity in existing schools, new and existing Welsh language immersion centres, Welsh-medium Additional Learning Needs provision and Welsh-medium childcare provision. These projects will make a significant contribution to Welsh-medium education across Wales. At a local level, they will give Welsh a huge boost in many counties.

Furthermore, a more flexible approach to future investment through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has recently been approved, allowing local authorities to progress their plans when they are ready. Every local authority will be required to submit a 9-year investment plan by March 2024. These investment plans will be assessed against the approved WESPs to ensure they deliver the required capacity to meet the targets.

It's important that when local authorities consider school planning proposals that we continue to look at the bigger picture, e.g. the impact of moving or introducing new Welsh-medium education provision on a local community; travel needs; suitable Welsh-medium nursery provision. All of these things need to be considered and examined in the WESPs.

Immersion Provision for latecomers

The *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-2026* and our Programme for Government include our commitment to expand the Late Immersion Programme to ensure that every newcomer has access to a Welsh-medium education when they need it and wherever they are on their learning journey.

On 14 September 2021, an investment of £2.2m was announced for the 2021-22 financial year to support Welsh learners undertaking late immersion in schools, and to support the progression of learners in the Welsh language in light of COVID-19. All local authorities were given the opportunity to apply for a maximum of £100,000 to be spent before the end of March 2022. Strong applications were made by all local authorities, and all were approved in order to support investments facilitating the development or growth of Welsh-medium immersion provision.

Eight local authorities were allocated funding to create their first Welsh language late immersion centres, namely Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot, Powys, and the Vale of Glamorgan. All local authorities received funding to expand existing late immersion programmes, and as an additional boost for late immersion in Welsh schools following the pandemic.

To build on the success of this funding, enabling all local authorities in Wales to develop their Welsh language late immersion provision, we have committed to a total of £6.6m of additional revenue funding over 3 years (£2.2m confirmed for 2022-23 and indicative for 2023-24 and 2024-25). All local authorities were given the opportunity to apply for funding through a competitive bidding process, and all projects were approved, ready to be implemented from September 2022. This is a great opportunity for all local authorities and their partners to

expand their Welsh-medium late immersion provision in their schools and immersion centres. The £6.6 million late immersion grant also recognises and supports the specialist workforce which are key to the success of this provision. The grant supports over 60 specialists which includes co-ordinators, immersion teachers and support officers. As part of our commitment in our [Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26](#), we have established a network to support Welsh immersion education.

School categorisation

In 2021, a consultation was held on amended draft non-statutory guidance in relation to 'school categories according to Welsh-medium provision'. The final guidance was published on 16 December 2021. The categorisation policy is a key mechanism for a number of local authorities to meet their WESPs targets. The new categories will provide a framework for local authorities to confidently and directly grow and improve Welsh-medium education provision in their area including in English-medium schools. All local authorities are expected to implement the new school language categories by January 2024. This is currently on a non-statutory basis but following the White Paper consultation for the Welsh Language Education Bill (mentioned above in Article 8.1(c)(i)), we aim in the future to put these school categories on a statutory footing.

A national strategic group has been established to build on the discussions already taking place, to share good practice, experiences and challenges, and also as an opportunity to provide ongoing further support and guidance to local authorities on practical issues relating to the categorisation policy.

For local authorities that currently have Welsh or English-medium schools, discussions have taken place about how to introduce more Welsh during the school day, particularly in their English-medium schools and settings. Publishing the revised guidance was only the first step. This is just the beginning of the journey and the transition from one system to another will take time to embed. It's important to recognise that it will be a different journey for each local authority. The priority from the start has been to ensure clarity in the information available to parents about Welsh language provision in schools and the potential linguistic outcomes for their children.

e-sgol

The [e-sgol](#) project is based on the Scottish e-sgoil. It is a blended learning initiative that provides online teaching and learning opportunities using direct, real-time and interactive approaches. Using the range of equipment and services available through [Hwb](#) (our online Education Wales portal), it has allowed students from different schools to access digital teaching opportunities by qualified and experienced teachers.

We were inspired to adapt the Scottish e-sgoil project for Wales having learnt about it via our British-Irish Council involvement. The e-sgol project was therefore launched during the 2018/19 academic year as a pilot scheme in Ceredigion. The aim was to give post-14 and post-16 learners in rural areas of Wales equal opportunities to study courses not otherwise available to them. The pilot was expanded during the second year (2019/20) to include provision in schools in Powys and Carmarthenshire. The e-sgol project has been expanding annually since its launch in 2018. During 2021-22, 28 subjects (GCSE, AS and A-level) were offered across 28 schools to over 350 pupils.

e-sgol is now available to all parts of Wales. In 2022-23, we increased funding dedicated to the scheme to £600,000 to continue to develop the project. Participation in the e-sgol project is voluntary and the additional funding will allow for further promotion, with the aim of ensuring that the provision expands to all consortium areas in Wales from September 2023.

During the pandemic, e-sgol became a vehicle for offering 'Carlam Cymru' sessions to pupils – additional lessons to reinforce and strengthen their understanding of their work. Two series

of these sessions were held during November 2021 and March 2022 to offer a wide range of subjects at GCSE, AS and A-level. During the November 2021 series, 160 teachers delivered 44 sessions in seven GCSE subjects with over 1,500 pupils attending the sessions or watching a recording. During the March 2022 series, 38 teachers delivered 212 sessions (72 GCSEs / 68 AS / 72 A-level) in 11 GCSE subjects, 11 AS subjects and 13 A-level subjects with over 4,600 attending the sessions or watching a recording.

We plan to continue to develop the project and discussions are ongoing in relation to the possibility of expanding the model to the primary sector.

Para 1(d)

(i) to make available technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

(ii) to make available a substantial part of technical and vocational education in the relevant regional or minority languages; or

(iii) to provide, within technical and vocational education, for the teaching of the relevant regional or minority languages as an integral part of the curriculum; or

(iv) to apply one of the measures provided for under i to iii above at least to those pupils who, or where appropriate whose families, so wish in a number considered sufficient;

Further Education

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol receives an annual grant from the Welsh Government to work with providers across the post-compulsory sector. In 2017, its role was expanded to include the development of Welsh-medium and Welsh language provision in further education institutions and in the apprenticeships sector.

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's [Further Education and Apprenticeship Welsh-medium Action Plan](#) was launched in January 2019 and provides a basis for future actions within the post-16 sector.

The plan addresses the issues that are needed to ensure linguistic continuity from statutory education to post-16 education and the training sector. It also ensures that learners have the necessary linguistic skills as well as the vocational qualifications they've gained in preparation for employment.

Since publishing its Further Education and Apprenticeship Welsh-medium Action Plan, the Coleg has supported a number of strategic projects in the post-16 sector. These projects focused on the priority areas of Health and Care; Early Years Care; and Public Services, to establish a robust infrastructure for provision and increase the number of learners studying through the medium of Welsh and bilingually.

Consequently, additional tutors were employed, subject groups were established across the colleges, classroom resources were developed, and good practice was shared between the institutions.

Ensuring that appropriate resources are available to accompany Welsh-medium qualifications is key to the growth of Welsh-medium and bilingual provision and the Coleg has provided additional funding to support the development of high-quality resources in Welsh.

Prentis-iaith, an interactive resource in the apprenticeship sector, continues to be particularly successful in improving understanding of bilingualism and the importance of customer service amongst apprentices who have no or very few skills in Welsh.

A number of apprenticeship providers have already incorporated Prentis-iaith into their programmes. Following the demand for additional levels, resources for confidence and fluency levels have been commissioned to further increase the skills of apprentices.

The Coleg's Student Ambassadors programme for the post-16 sector has been extended. 58 Coleg Ambassadors and 12 Apprenticeship Ambassadors were appointed in 2021-22 to support training providers to build learners' confidence in Welsh, and to provide opportunities to chat and understand the importance of speaking the language, particularly in the workplace.

Further education (FE) institutions and apprenticeship providers are also supported through the Welsh-medium Allowance, which is provided as part of their annual revenue settlements from the Welsh Government. FE institutions and apprenticeship providers are expected to use this allowance to develop and maintain provision to enable learners to continue with their post-16 education through the medium of Welsh.

As part of their annual contracts, FE institutions and apprenticeships are required to have an up-to-date Welsh-medium and Bilingual Strategy which includes, as a minimum:

- Organisational targets for the delivery of Welsh-medium / bilingual learning and assessment reflecting the needs of the area and the institutions' priorities.
- Targets for the delivery of Welsh-medium / bilingual learning in the following priority sectors:
 - o Health and Social Care
 - o Childcare
 - o Public Services
 - o Agriculture
 - o Construction
 - o Business
 - o Sport and Leisure
 - o Creative Industries
- Arrangements for recording learners' language preference, Welsh language skills and recording their Welsh-medium and bilingual learning and assessments.
- Arrangements for all learners with a Welsh first or second language qualification to receive planned elements of Welsh-medium activity in their learning to demonstrate language confidence and proficiency appropriate to their level, thereby maintaining and developing their skills for the workplace.
- Arrangements for the recruitment and / or the development of staff to deliver services and learning through the medium of Welsh / bilingually.
- Clear objectives for the development of Welsh-medium / bilingual activities and resources in support of provision.
- Arrangements for marketing and promoting Welsh-medium / bilingual provision.

The percentage of learning activities held in Welsh or bilingually in further education institutions and in the work-based learning sector has consistently grown since 2017/18. There has also been a gradual increase in the number of activities taking place in schools over the same period.

We are eager to see further increases in Welsh-medium and bilingual provision in the further education and apprenticeships sector. In the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru, we have committed to invest an additional £8m by 2024-25 for:

- The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to increase the proportion of Welsh-medium apprenticeships and to increase the opportunities to continue to learn through the medium of Welsh in the further education sector.
- The National Centre for Learning Welsh to provide free Welsh language learning for 16 to 25-year-olds.

The funding will also support a number of other initiatives, including a project to attract undergraduates to return to Wales to train as teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh.

Welsh-medium vocational qualifications

Qualifications Wales, the independent regulator for non-degree qualifications in Wales was established through the Qualifications Wales Act 2015. Under the Act, Qualifications Wales is required to have regard to the desirability of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

Qualifications Wales works with awarding bodies and sector organisations to encourage and meet the demand for qualifications through the medium of Welsh. It also provides extensive grant funding to awarding bodies to help support the availability of Welsh-medium qualifications and assessment for vocational qualifications, including Welsh for Adults qualifications.

Qualifications Wales' [Choice for All](#) strategy was published in 2020 with the aim of increasing the availability of Welsh-medium qualifications. Choice for All sets out four strategic areas of focus:

- Prioritising qualifications to be made available in Welsh in full-time education, post-16 settings and apprenticeships.
- Strengthening support for awarding bodies and their capacity to deliver Welsh-medium qualifications.
- Revising our Welsh Language Support grant to focus on priority areas, new qualifications and innovative applications.
- Improving information and data for learners, schools and colleges, and for our regulatory purposes.

Since 2015, Qualifications Wales has undertaken a series of Sector Reviews to ensure that the qualifications available in Wales reflect the skills that employers need. This has resulted in an increase in qualification provision available through the medium of Welsh, including qualification handbooks, assessment packs and learning resources.

Para1(e)

(i) to make available university and other higher education in regional or minority languages or;

(ii) to provide facilities for the study of these languages as university and higher education subjects; or

(iii) if, by reason of the role of the State in relation to higher education institutions, subparagraphs i and ii cannot be applied, to encourage and/or allow the provision of university or other forms of higher education in regional or minority languages or of facilities for the study of these languages as university or higher education subjects;

Higher education provision is available within all Welsh Universities in Wales. Welsh-medium modules can be studied within all the main subject areas and the number of students using Welsh within their studies is increasing.

Provision in higher education institutions is being developed and promoted through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. In 2021/22, 60 grants were awarded to support Welsh-medium provision, including new seed grants to support interprofessional Health provision at Glyndŵr University, and interdisciplinary Humanities and Citizenship provision at Cardiff University.

As a result of the investment through the Coleg, Welsh-medium provision is available in 25 of the main subject groups. The number of staff at universities able to teach through the medium of Welsh has also increased significantly over the last decade from 710 in 2011 to 1,060 in

2021. The lecturers are supported through a monthly academic staff training programme run by the Coleg which includes face-to-face training, distance learning and workshops.

The Coleg also provides research scholarships, with the aim of developing researchers of the highest standard who can work through the medium of Welsh. In 2021/22, 11 new research scholarships were awarded across a range of academic subjects, including Education Studies, Biomedicine, Music, Pharmacy, and Youth Work.

There has been a significant increase in the number of enrolments by students at Welsh universities who were using some Welsh in their education between 2019/20 and 2020/21, following a period of decline between 2016/17 and 2018/29.

There was an increase of 1,305 in the number of enrolments by students at Welsh universities who were using some Welsh in their education between 2019/20 and 2020/21. The largest percentage, 45% of students, enrolled to study between 5 and 40 credits through the medium of Welsh in 2019-20, an increase of 880 more enrolments than the previous year.

The tertiary education sector is central to our efforts to reach the goals and objectives of *Cymraeg 2050*. Therefore, in 2023, we will establish the Tertiary Education and Research Commission which will be responsible for the funding, oversight and regulation of tertiary education and research in Wales. The new Commission will have a vital role in expanding the Welsh and bilingual medium offering in tertiary education. In particular, the Commission will be expected to:

- Plan strategically to positively promote and increase Welsh-medium tertiary education.
- Encourage providers to deliver, develop and increase their Welsh-medium tertiary education.
- Encourage providers to plan progression routes so that Welsh speakers can continue their learning post-16 and develop their Welsh language skills and to offer opportunities to use the Welsh language in order to create a bilingual workforce.
- Monitor availability and take up of Welsh-medium learning opportunities, and any subjects where the demand for Welsh-medium learning cannot be met currently.
- Work effectively with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to achieve the above.

Para 1(f)(ii) to offer such languages as subjects of adult and continuing education;

The Welsh Government provides funding to local authorities and further education colleges to deliver adult learning. The funding enables providers to deliver a range of flexible learning opportunities for adults and is targeted primarily at those aged 25 or over.

Challenging funding settlements mean that the Welsh Government has continued to prioritise Adult Community Learning (ACL) funded provision on the delivery of Essential Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL, Digital Literacy and Employability Skills. The funding is for both English and Welsh-medium adult learning, and providers are encouraged to consider the language needs of their learners when planning their provision.

We want to increase the availability of Welsh-medium essential skills and employability courses so that individuals have an equal opportunity to develop the skills they need in order to meet employers' demands and support professional and career development. While adult learning providers have made some progress in this area, the proportion of Welsh-medium provision across the sector remains low and we are currently looking at how we can support providers to develop and increase Welsh-medium provision.

The National Centre for Learning Welsh (the Centre) was established in 2015 to coordinate provision and provide direction for the Learn Welsh Sector. Its aim is to create new Welsh speakers, confident in using their new skills, and contributing to achieving our ambition of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, as well as doubling daily use of the language.

The Centre is responsible for all aspects of the Learn Welsh sector, from curriculum and course development to training and resources for tutors, marketing and e-learning.

The Centre is not a Learn Welsh provider in its own right. The Centre currently contracts with 11 regional providers who provide a programme of community Learn Welsh provision. The responsible bodies listed below receive a grant from the Centre to run Learn Welsh provision. Each provider receives targets from the Centre and their performance is monitored by the Centre.

On 31 March 2023, the Centre published a complete data [set for the 2021/22 academic year](#). The data shows that the Centre had 15,260 unique learners during the 2021/22 academic year; an increase of 20% since 2017/18. The data also shows that:

- The Centre provided 27,345 learning activities during 2021/22.
- 60% of learners were at Entry level (this is the introductory level for beginners).
- 15% were at Foundation level and 25% at Intermediate or Advanced levels (including Proficiency level).
- 85% of learners were within the working age group of 16 and 64; 15% were older than 65, and 13% were between the ages of 16 and 24.

An independent review of the Centre was held in 2021. This review found that the Centre had succeeded to meet its objectives since being established, and recommended that the Centre's expertise on language acquisition is used to advise and strengthen the teaching of Welsh in schools. The Centre has since started to offer courses to the education workforce, and consideration is currently being given to the Centre's role within the statutory education sector in the context of developing the Welsh Language Education Bill.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre moved its provision from traditional face-to-face classroom learning to innovative online provision. All courses were delivered by tutors on online platforms during the pandemic. Since the pandemic, the Centre are offering their learners a choice of how they wish to access their courses, either face-to-face, online, or a hybrid model. To further enhance the digital delivery of their courses, the Centre have also formed partnerships with [SaySomethinginWelsh](#), and Duolingo so that the content of their resources complements the Centre's curriculum.

The Centre itself and the regional providers are also subject to periodical Estyn inspections which monitors the quality of teaching, and leadership.

As part of our *Programme for Government*, the Centre has started offering free Welsh lessons to young people aged between 16-25 from September 2022 and is doing so in collaboration with the Coleg Cymraeg. Welsh lessons are also provided free of charge to the education workforce.

The Centre is also leading on a pilot project which is encouraging young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help with teaching Welsh in schools. A pilot course was run in July 2022 for 15 undergraduates, to give them a taste of being a Learn Welsh tutor or a teacher.

Para 1(g) to make arrangements to ensure the teaching of the history and the culture which is reflected by the regional or minority language;

Wales has a rich culture and heritage and Welsh Government believes that it is essential that all pupils in Wales get the opportunity to learn about our nation's history, including the history of the Welsh language. We believe that everyone should learn about and be able to critically engage with the history of our country.

Our vision for Welsh history in the Curriculum for Wales, is for all of our citizens, including young people, to understand how history, language, diversity and culture have shaped Wales to become the proud and unique nation we are today. It is vitally important that young people are able to explore the diverse history of Wales, discover their heritage and develop their understanding of their local area.

The process of co-constructing a new Curriculum for Wales with the education profession and delivery partners commenced in 2018 and was rolled out from September 2022. Each of the curriculum's six Areas of Learning and Experience include mandatory 'Statements of What Matters', described as the 'big ideas' and key principles in each Area.

Through the statements of 'What Matters' Code and the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, Welsh history is a mandatory part of our new curriculum and it should be embedded across the curriculum.

The Welsh Government strengthened the statements of 'What Matters' for Humanities following consultation in spring 2021 to ensure the study of Welsh history is both explicit and compulsory for schools and settings and at all stages – this requires learners to have a consistent exposure to the story of Wales in order for these schools and settings to fulfil their duties.

In Autumn 2022, the Welsh Government undertook a consultation on further changes to the Humanities area of the Curriculum for Wales to provide explicit reference to the 'history of Wales and the world'. Those proposals gained broad support from across Wales and the Welsh Government published the outcome of that consultation on 14 February 2023. The resulting changes to the Curriculum for Wales framework guidance were updated on 31 May 2023.

Para 1(h) to provide the basic and further training of the teachers required to implement those of paragraphs a to g accepted by the Party;

The Early years workforce

The Welsh Government is currently undertaking a mapping exercise of the childcare and play workforce in Wales, which will be completed in November 2023. The aim of the research is to provide an accurate picture of the size and make-up of the childcare and play workforce in Wales. This will include the current workforce, patterns over previous years and future projections, based on past trends and anticipated future needs. The research will be used to inform policy to support and develop the childcare and play workforce now and over the next five years.

£2.112m of the additional funding to Cwlwm as mentioned in 8.1(a)(i) is being provided to Mudiad Meithrin over a 24-month period to support the provision of an additional 100 recruits to undertake the Level 3 qualifications and an additional 50 recruits to undertake the Level 5 qualifications in childcare through their 'Cam wrth Gam' scheme.

In addition to this, Mudiad Meithrin also deliver the Cam wrth Gam Schools Scheme which has offered Childcare courses for year 10-13 pupils through the medium of Welsh since 2006.

The courses include Level 1 Diploma and Level 3 Childcare Qualifications. The courses are offered on a commercial basis.

A number of programmes are in place to increase numbers of early-years practitioners able to work through the medium of Welsh. The 'Progress for Success' programme, jointly funded by Welsh Government and the European Social Fund supports practitioners in the childcare and playwork sector to upskill. Specific targets for the delivery of learning through the medium of Welsh have been incorporated into the programme to ensure that childcare workers in Welsh-medium settings have opportunities to maintain and develop their Welsh language skills for use within the sector.

The Progress for Success programme has also funded Welsh language courses for childcare practitioners at progressive levels through the National Centre for Learning Welsh Camau courses. These courses, specifically aimed at the childcare workforce to develop practitioner's Welsh language skills and confidence, also receive core Welsh Government funding.

Statutory education workforce

Our ambition for a million Welsh speakers by 2050 demands far-reaching changes and actions to be taken. Our new curriculum puts the Welsh language at the heart of learning in Wales but if we are to create a nation where people speak and use the language as part of their everyday lives, increasing the number of learners in Welsh-medium schools is vital. For us to do that we need a strong and skilled workforce.

In May 2022, the Welsh Government published the [Welsh in education workforce plan](#) that builds on actions set out in the [Welsh in education: action plan 2017-2021](#) in relation to developing our school workforce and other key reforms that have been implemented in our education system. The plan sets out actions under four overarching aims:

- Increase the number of teachers able to teach Welsh as a subject and other subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- Increase the number of practitioners able to work through the medium of Welsh who are supporting learners.
- Develop all practitioners' Welsh language skills and expertise to teach Welsh and through the medium of Welsh.
- Develop leadership capacity for Welsh-medium schools and equip all leaders with the skills to strategically plan the development of Welsh within a culture of schools as learning organisations.

There has been significant reform to initial teacher education (ITE) in recent years. New programmes of ITE were rolled out from September 2019 and the [accreditation criteria](#) requires partnerships to be clear about activity included in their programmes for the development of the Welsh language. The accreditation criteria was recently refreshed and this further strengthened the need for ITE programmes that support the required increase in the number of teachers able to teach Welsh and through the medium of Welsh, and for the language development of all student teachers to teach Welsh as part of Curriculum for Wales.

Other key developments in ITE include:

- Introducing the Iaith Athrawon Yfory Incentive Scheme in 2018, which is a £5,000 incentive available to students studying an accredited secondary postgraduate ITE programme that enables them to teach through the medium of Welsh or Welsh as a subject.
- Developing the [Language competency framework for education practitioners](#) to measure the linguistic competence of practitioners. It is used as part of ITE and as

part of career-long professional learning for practitioners. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is funded to undertake arrangements to moderate the implementation of the framework within ITE.

- Introducing 2 new pathways into teaching to enable those wishing to study part-time or change career. The part-time course allows student teachers to study while working or balancing other commitments. The salaried PGCE course allows student teachers to work as unqualified teachers while working towards a PGCE.
- The Education Workforce Council (EWC) establishing the Educators Wales website, on behalf of the Welsh Government, which provides comprehensive information about becoming a teacher in Wales. This is supported by the Teaching Wales campaign to attract more prospective teachers, including those wishing to teach Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh.

We do not currently have enough people choosing to become teachers in the Welsh-medium sector. While the picture is more positive in primary education, we know that secondary schools have difficulties recruiting teachers, particularly in some subjects such as science, mathematics, English and Welsh. We also know that ensuring a pipeline of young people studying through the medium of Welsh as undergraduates who have the confidence to progress into teaching through the medium of Welsh is essential. We have therefore:

- Worked with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, universities and other key partners to develop projects to increase the number of students studying Welsh as a subject in order to increase the number of future Welsh teachers.
- Funded Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to develop a mentoring programme and 'a taste of teaching modules' for undergraduates to give them some experience of working in a school and mentoring support to build confidence to progress into teaching.
- Undertaken a pilot programme to support Welsh-medium primary teachers to receive training and support in order to convert to teaching in the secondary sector.
- Established a pilot bursary scheme to retain teachers in the Welsh-medium secondary sector. This bursary of £5,000 will be available to eligible teachers from September 2023.

In Wales, we also need to ensure a sufficient supply of teaching assistants who support learners and are able to work through the medium of Welsh. Schools are heavily reliant on this workforce to work with smaller groups of learners and support those with additional learning needs (ALN) for example. We need to continue to work to find innovative ways to attract teaching assistants and support workers able to work through the medium of Welsh, particularly to support our most vulnerable learners. But we have been able to move forward with some actions, including:

- A pilot scheme to provide learners leaving school with a year's placement to become teaching assistants in a cluster of 3 primary schools in Torfaen.
- We've funded a number of projects to increase the number of teaching assistants through the capacity grant that was launched last year.
- Cyngor Gwynedd is planning to pilot full-time jobs with some hours as teaching assistants and some hours supporting other services e.g. social care, childcare or play schemes over the summer holidays. The aim is to create a favourable offer, offering a year-round job and 37 hours a week to appeal to employees with the relevant language skills.
- We will be appointing a national Welsh Language Implementation Lead to support the development of Welsh-medium Additional Learning Needs provision and professional learning.

We are continuing to support teachers in English-medium schools to develop their ability to use and teach the language. The Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme has a central role in developing practitioners' Welsh-language skills and ability to teach through the medium of Welsh. The Scheme provides methodology and Welsh language training for teachers and classroom assistants from primary and secondary schools throughout Wales.

The Scheme provides an opportunity for practitioners to:

- Improve their Welsh-language skills.
- Learn subject-specific terminology.
- Ensure awareness and confidence to use Welsh-medium and bilingual methodologies.

All courses are offered free of charge. The Welsh Government will also pay a grant towards supply cover and will reimburse participants' additional travel costs. Information about the range of courses available can be found [here](#).

Since September 2022, education practitioners can access courses via the National Centre for Learning Welsh for free. Further information about the various courses available can be found [here](#). We are also funding a national officer to work across the regional consortia to develop national programmes of professional learning to support practitioners. This work is still in its infancy, but is bringing the wealth of expertise across Wales together.

The National Academy for Educational Leadership plays an active role in our plans to increase capacity in our workforce and support all leaders to strategically plan the development of Welsh within their schools. In April, we published a [draft resource](#) to support leaders to evaluate their journey to develop the Welsh language in their school. We are also working with local authorities to understand the demand for Welsh-speaking leaders to take up headship or senior leadership roles in our Welsh-medium schools.

Post-16 workforce

Training for tutors / practitioners is key in expanding post-16 provision. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh have implemented a joint national training programme for lecturers and learning practitioners to increase existing skills in the post-16 workforce.

In August 2021, the Gwreiddio Scheme for post-16 staff was launched with the aim of increasing the level of Welsh-medium provision offered. In 2021-22, over 100 staff enrolled on the Scheme.

The Coleg is also supporting a project to attract undergraduates to return to Wales to train as teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh.

Para 1(i) to set up a supervisory body or bodies responsible for monitoring the measures taken and progress achieved in establishing or developing the teaching of regional or minority languages and for drawing up periodic reports of their findings, which will be made public;

The Welsh Government includes information on the progress of *Cymraeg 2050* in its annual reports. The next report will be published during the autumn of 2023 to cover the 2022-23 financial year.

Robust governance arrangements are in place for the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* within Welsh Government and externally. The Cabinet conducts regular discussions on the progress of the strategy and their contribution to its delivery.

The Cymraeg 2050 Programme Board is made up of senior civil servants across the Welsh Government. The Board meets quarterly, or more often if required, to provide invaluable scrutiny and challenge, advice, leadership and assurance on the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*.

Please refer to the role of the Welsh Language Partnership Council at Article 7, Paragraph 4.

Internal and external monitoring groups have also been established to monitor the implementation of various strategies for example *The Welsh in education workforce plan*. Our key partners have well-established governance processes in place through their boards.

Article 9 – Judicial authorities

The Criminal, Civil and Administrative courts are reserved to the UK Government who have their own Welsh language schemes.

Para 1. The Parties undertake, in respect of those judicial districts in which the number of residents using the regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below, according to the situation of each of these languages and on condition that the use of the facilities afforded by the present paragraph is not considered by the judge to hamper the proper administration of justice:

Para 1(a) in criminal proceedings:

Para 1(a)(ii) to guarantee the accused the right to use his/her regional or minority language, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned; and/or

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 1(a)(iii) to provide that requests and evidence, whether written or oral, shall not be considered inadmissible solely because they are formulated in a regional or minority language, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations involving no extra expense for the persons concerned;

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 1(b) in civil proceedings:

Para 1(b)(ii) to allow, whenever a litigant has to appear in person before a court, that he or she may use his or her regional or minority language without thereby incurring additional expense, if necessary by the use of interpreters or translations;

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 1(b)(iii) to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages, if necessary by the use of interpreters and translations;

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 1(c) in proceedings before courts concerning administrative matters:

Para 1(c)(ii)

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 1(c)(iii) to allow documents and evidence to be produced in the regional or minority languages

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 1(d) to take steps to ensure that the application of sub-paragraphs i and iii of paragraphs b and c above and any necessary use of interpreters and translations does not involve extra expense for the persons concerned.

No additional information since the previous report.

Para 2(b) not to deny the validity, as between the parties, of legal documents drawn up within the country solely because they are drafted in a regional or minority language, and to provide that they can be invoked against interested third parties who are not users of these languages on condition that the contents of the document are made known to them by the person(s) who invoke(s) it;

No additional information since the previous report.

Article 10 – Administrative authorities and public services

Para 1 – Within the administrative districts of the State in which the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages justifies the measures specified below and according to the situation of each language, the Parties undertake, as far as this is reasonably possible:

Para 1(a)(i) to ensure that the administrative authorities use the regional or minority languages;

We believe that this article is fulfilled due to the bodies (local authorities, national park authorities) coming under statutory duties in regard to their use of Welsh, and the delivery of Welsh language services through the Welsh language standards system. Compliance with standards is monitored and enforced by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The Commissioner also works with these bodies to share best practice and to promote their use of Welsh.

As described in our previous report, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (the Measure) has brought a sea change in the use of Welsh and provision of Welsh language services by administrative authorities and public services in Wales.

Owing to the different nature of administrative bodies subjected to Welsh Language Standards, different sets of Regulations have been drafted which relate to different types of bodies. Eight sets of Welsh language standards Regulations have been passed to date which apply standards to over 130 bodies. Bodies which comply with standards include local authorities, national parks, health boards, emergency services, Welsh public bodies, Welsh Tribunals, Universities and Further Education Colleges, UK-wide Healthcare Regulators, and Welsh Government.

The Regulations contain standards which the Welsh Language Commissioner may require a body to comply with by giving the body a Compliance Notice. The Welsh Language Standards Regulations contain duties (standards) concerning the Welsh language under the following headings:

- Service delivery standards (defined at section 28 of the Measure).
- Policy making standards (defined at section 29 of the Measure).
- Operational standards (defined at section 30 of the Measure).
- Promotion standards (defined at section 31 of the Measure).
- Record keeping standards (defined at section 32 of the Measure).

The Welsh Language Schemes of administrative authorities and bodies involved in delivering public services remain in operation if they have not yet been brought under the Welsh Language Standards system. The enforcement of Welsh Language Schemes under the Welsh Language Act 1993 remains the responsibility of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

The Welsh language services offered by the UK Government departments have been grouped on a single page of the UK Government's [website](#). A link to the list is provided at the footer throughout the website.

Please also refer to:

- 7.1.b): Welsh Language Forums and Welsh in Education Forums

Para 1(b) to make available widely used administrative texts and forms for the population in the regional or minority languages or in bilingual versions;

As described above at Article 10(a)(i), the production of documents and forms produced by bodies subject to Welsh language standards are included within the Welsh Language Standards regulations, and the Commissioner is able to impose duties in relation to the production of Welsh language versions of documents and forms.

Para 1(c) to allow the administrative authorities to draft documents in a regional or minority language.

Operational Standards contained within Welsh Language Standards Regulations aim to increase the provision of Welsh language services internally. To this end, the Welsh Language Standards make provision to require organisations to develop a policy on the use of Welsh internally with the aim of promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh.

Furthermore, the Operational Standards include duties on bodies to provide certain support material to staff in Welsh. Reference should be had to each body's Compliance Notices for a full understanding of the scope of these obligations for each particular body.

Please also refer to:

- 10.4(b) – Cymraeg. It belongs to us all.
- 7.1.d) – Working with large technology companies.
- 7.1.d) – Free Grammar checker and Spellchecker to build confidence.
- 10.4(a) – Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru.

Para 2 – In respect of the local and regional authorities on whose territory the number of residents who are users of regional or minority languages is such as to justify the measures specified below, the Parties undertake to allow and/or encourage:

Para 2(a) the use of regional or minority languages within the framework of the regional or local authority;

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system at Article 10 paragraph 1.

Para 2(b) the possibility for users of regional or minority languages to submit oral or written applications in these languages;

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system at Article 10 paragraph 1.

Para 2(c) the publication by regional authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system at Article 10 paragraph 1.

Para 2(d) the publication by local authorities of their official documents also in the relevant regional or minority languages;

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system at Article 10 paragraph 1.

Para 2(e) the use by regional authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;

On the 12 November 2012, the National Assembly for Wales (Official Languages)

Bill, received Royal Assent and became law. It makes provision about the use of the English and Welsh languages in proceedings of the Senedd and in the discharge of the functions of the Senedd Commission.

Para 2(f) the use by local authorities of regional or minority languages in debates in their assemblies, without excluding, however, the use of the official language(s) of the State;

We believe that this article is fulfilled due to the bodies (local authorities, national park authorities) coming under statutory duties in regard to their use of Welsh, and the delivery of Welsh language services through the Welsh language standards system. Compliance with standards is monitored and enforced by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The Commissioner also works with these bodies to share best practice and to promote their use of Welsh.

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system to which local authorities are subjected to at Article 10 paragraph 1.

Para 2(g) the use or adoption, if necessary in conjunction with the name in the official language(s), of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.

The below should be read in conjunction with the duties on administrative authorities under the Welsh Language Standards system as at Article 10 paragraph 1.

The Welsh Language Commissioner retains responsibility for the coordination of the standardisation of place names.

Please also refer to Article 12.1(h) – protecting place names.

Para 3 – With regard to public services provided by the administrative authorities or other persons acting on their behalf, the Parties undertake, within the territory in which regional or minority languages are used, in accordance with the situation of each language and as far as this is reasonably possible:

Para 3(a) to ensure that the regional or minority languages are used in the provision of the service;

We believe that this article is fulfilled due to the bodies (local authorities, national park authorities) coming under statutory duties in regard to their use of Welsh, and the delivery of Welsh language services through the Welsh language standards system. Compliance with standards is monitored and enforced by the Welsh Language Commissioner. The Commissioner also works with these bodies to share best practice and to promote their use of Welsh.

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system at Article 10 paragraph 1. Specific reference should be made section 28(2) of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Para 4 – With a view to putting into effect those provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 accepted by them, the Parties undertake to take one or more of the following measures:

Para 4(a) translation or interpretation as may be required;

Given the strategic importance of the translation profession to delivering the policy behind the Welsh Language Standards regime, the Welsh Government has provided grant funding to Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru (the association of Welsh translators and interpreters) since the 2016-17 financial year. This is the professional association that upholds, ensures and promotes professional translation standards, improving, increasing and developing the skills and knowledge of translators.

The Association has remained central to maintaining a community of translators, and advocating on their behalf, during a period when translators of all kinds were going through a difficult period as a result of the pandemic. Members were regularly signposted to sources of information and contacts that may be useful to them, including information on the financial and business support available, as well as the general information about the rules and regulations associated with a wide range of COVID-19 issues. It also highlighted information that would benefit the health and well-being of members.

In terms of training, Aberystwyth University offers a Professional Translation Studies course funded by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (which is itself funded by the Welsh Government). This national postgraduate degree involves collaboration with the University of Wales Trinity St David (UWTSD), who provide and teach the optional interpretation and subtitling modules. The scheme is flexible and students can choose to follow one of three pathways: MCert (60 credits), MDip (120 credits) or MA (180 credits).

It combines modules that are taught by specialists, with opportunities for work placements alongside professionals in Wales's translation sector. Students are introduced to all aspects of translation, including general, legislative and specialist translation; translation technology; and international creative translation. Interpretation and simultaneous translation are delivered by UWTSD. Students can also opt to complete a research project. These skills form the basis to forge a successful career in written translation and simultaneous translation.

Please refer to Article:

- 7.1.d) – Helo Blod
- 7.1.d) – Working with large technology companies.
- 7.1.d) – Free Grammar checker and Spellchecker to build confidence.

See response above concerning the Welsh Language Standards system at Article 10 paragraph 1. The Welsh Language Standards Regulations which include the duties which the Welsh Language Commissioner may impose on administrative

organisations and bodies make specific references to the use of translation / interpretation facilities.

Para 4(b) recruitment and, where necessary, training of the officials and other public service employees required

Welsh Language Standards

The Operational Standards included within Welsh Language Standards regulations place specific duties on the administrative organisations and bodies to which they apply concerning the recruitment of Welsh-speaking staff and the provision of basic Welsh lessons to staff. For a full understanding, reference should be made to the Welsh Language Standards Regulations.

Cymraeg Gwaith (Work Welsh)

The Welsh Government invests around £2.5 million annually in the *Cymraeg Gwaith* programme. *Cymraeg Gwaith* has been managed by the National Centre for Learning Welsh since 2017 – it provides Learn Welsh courses for the workplace. The provision includes online self-study taster courses, courses with tutors, and intensive residential courses.

During 2022-23, 637 employers engaged with Cymraeg Gwaith, of which 147 were new employers to the programme. 10,923 individuals have benefited from the scheme during the year. 5,748 employees followed short self-study taster courses, 1,279 accessed Learn Welsh courses which included self-study courses with tutor support. 327 employees attended intensive residential courses to increase their confidence and to increase the use of Welsh in their workplaces.

Cymraeg Gwaith also offers tailored provision designed to improve Welsh language skills within specific sectors. This includes tailored provision for employees in the higher and further education sectors, the social care sector, local authorities, and the childcare sector. The National Centre for Learning Welsh also works with employers to develop bespoke courses for their workplaces.

During 2023-24, the National Centre will be rolling out a new national Cymraeg Gwaith project for the Healthcare sector, working with Health Boards and Trusts to increase the Welsh language skills of the workforce.

As well as increasing the number of Welsh speakers and the use made of Welsh, Cymraeg Gwaith also allows bodies to provide better Welsh language services to their service users and helps public bodies to increase their Welsh language capacity and to comply with Welsh language standards.

Cymraeg. It belongs to us all

The Welsh Government published its internal use of Welsh strategy, [*Cymraeg. It belongs to us all*](#), in 2020. In the strategy, the Welsh Government has set a long-term goal for the use of the language. The aim is that the Welsh Government should become a truly bilingual organisation by 2050, which means it would become a workplace in which it is routine for the Welsh and English languages to both be used interchangeably and naturally.

The Welsh Government has also set a shorter-term goal of becoming an exemplar organisation in its use of the language in comparison to other public sector organisations by 2025. The Welsh Government's wider reaching strategy on the language, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*, also commits to leading by example in its promotion of the language to the Welsh Government's workforce. The Welsh Government has an important part to play not only in developing policies that mainstream promotion of the Welsh language, but also in

providing opportunities for our civil servants to use the language while working. The strategy has been published on the Welsh Government's website.

The strategy has four themes underpinning its vision: learning, leadership, recruitment and technology. The focus since the strategy's launch has been on progressing these themes. The Welsh Government has made significant progress in developing its Welsh language learning programme to staff, ensuring that the offer to staff is as varied, flexible and effective as possible. This appears to have been successful as take up of formal training opportunities has never been as high within the organisation, and there has been an increase of 740% in those registering for a formal training programme between May 2020 and March 2023. The Welsh Government has also introduced pilot programmes of learning to provide new opportunities to learn at all levels. One example is improving the confidence of staff to work bilingually by introducing a Languages Skills Certificate pilot.

The Welsh Government emphasises in its recruitment literature that the Welsh language is seen as an asset within the organisation no matter what the role, and it has launched pilot programmes to introduce the language to new cohorts of apprentices joining the apprenticeship scheme this year. The focus on senior leaders is also continuing, with a leadership masterclass with the Chief Constable of South Wales Police, to discuss his personal leadership in promoting use of the Welsh language.

Leading in a Bilingual Country

The Welsh Government's Academi Wales and Cymraeg 2050 Divisions have developed a *Leading in a Bilingual Country* programme. This brings together senior leaders from all over Wales to discuss how exactly they can lead their organisations in a way which would will to the spirit and letter of *Cymraeg 2050*, our long-term strategy for the Welsh language. The programme transcends status bilingualism and tackles organisational culture change using a hearts and minds approach. We are currently preparing a 5-year rollout for this programme.

Para 5 – The Parties undertake to allow the use or adoption of family names in the regional or minority languages, at the request of those concerned.

No additional information since the previous report.

Article 11 – Media

Para 1 – The Parties undertake, for the users of the regional or minority languages within the territories in which those languages are spoken, according to the situation of each language, to the extent that the public authorities, directly or indirectly, are competent, have power or play a role in this field, and respecting the principle of the independence and autonomy of the media:

Para 1(a) to the extent that radio and television carry out a public service mission:

(i) to ensure the creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in the regional or minority languages

Public Service Broadcasting

Whilst broadcasting is a reserved matter, and public service broadcasters are independent from government, the Welsh Government takes a keen interest in broadcasting issues and engages regularly with Welsh public service broadcasters, Ofcom and the UK Government

to champion the needs of Welsh citizens, including Welsh speakers. Public service broadcasters in Wales, including BBC Cymru Wales, S4C (Wales' Welsh language free-to-air public broadcast television channel) and ITV Cymru Wales continue to play an important role in ensuring that the Welsh language thrives, in the context of our *Cymraeg 2050* ambitions.

BBC Cymru Wales continues to operate its BBC Radio Cymru Welsh language network on two stations across Wales. The stations provide a valuable speech and music radio service for Welsh-speakers, offering a wide range of genres and reflecting the issues, events, culture and interests of the people of Wales. In 2022, the BBC announced its intention to increase Radio Cymru 2's broadcast hours from 15 hours a week to over 60 hours, with the aim of extending choice through the medium of Welsh specifically aimed at audiences who might not traditionally listen to Radio Cymru.

In 2021, Creative Wales entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the BBC and S4C. These partnership agreements set out how we intend to work jointly to deliver content which reflects the lives, landscape, languages, and culture of our nation. The MOU with S4C also considers opportunities to increase the availability of resources for new Welsh speakers and includes a specific commitment to fund Welsh language film. Recognising the importance of the screen sector to the sustainability and growth of the Welsh language, an MOU has also been agreed between the Cymraeg 2050 Division and S4C. S4C is recognised for producing content that portrays the whole of Wales, both urban and rural, and its cultural and sporting events and is committed to producing content for Welsh learners and for children and young people through [Hwb](#) (our online Education Wales portal) and the Cyw children's service, which is key to the longevity of the Welsh language and culture.

As the shift in the broadcasting landscape from traditional broadcast to more online content continues, our broadcasting policy work is seeking to ensure the rights of Welsh language speakers are promoted and protected on more digital and online channels as the regulatory framework evolves. In 2021, we responded to Ofcom's Small Screen: Big Debate consultation on the future of public service broadcasting and stressed the importance of ensuring that a modernised regulatory framework continues to meet the needs of audiences in Wales and maintains full services in the Welsh and English languages. We continue to represent the needs of Welsh people and Welsh speakers as the UK Government takes forward the proposals set out in its Media White Paper, including as set out in its draft Media Bill.

Through the Welsh Government's Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru, we are currently exploring the establishment of a shadow Broadcasting and Communications Authority for Wales. The panel is due to report later in the summer.

Para 1(d) to encourage and/or facilitate the production and distribution of audio and audiovisual works in the regional or minority languages

In 2020, the Welsh Government launched Creative Wales, an internal body tasked with supporting the ongoing sustainability and growth of the creative industries in Wales. Fulfilling an important manifesto commitment, Creative Wales is taking action to build on successes to date and to respond to industry growth and the changing landscape of the sector. Through Creative Wales, the Welsh Government targets its investments in the creative industries across a number of key sectors including screen, music, gaming, digital and publishing. To realise our ambitions for inclusive and sustainable growth, Creative Wales targets activity across a number of themes, including skills and talent development, diversity and inclusion, culture and well-being, maximising opportunities to promote the Welsh language and supporting a sustainable creative industries sector in Wales.

Creative Wales' core activities are designed to support the ongoing sustainability of the Welsh creative industries and the development of Welsh and bilingual content. The work of Creative Wales also helps to support job creation in Welsh-speaking communities, including rural communities and indigenous Welsh businesses.

The increase of back-to-back delivery of high-end drama, as well as international versions which can be subtitled to any given language has been instrumental in showcasing Wales and its rich language and culture to wider, global audiences. The ever-growing range of genres and subject matters delivered through the Welsh language is serving to facilitate Welsh language speakers to access a wide range of content in their first language, as opposed to having to view English language channels and streaming platforms as was the case historically.

Creative Wales has a good relationship with streaming platforms such as Netflix and Disney, as a direct result of bringing productions such as *Sex Education* and *Willow to Wales*. We are seeking to explore opportunities to increase provision of Welsh language content on these platforms in future, building on the recent example of the *Red Notice* and *The Adam Project* releases on Netflix being available with Welsh subtitles and the purchase of the *Dal yn y Mellt* licence from S4C as the first Welsh language programme purchased by Netflix.

Revised Economy Futures Fund (EFF) Production Funding guidelines place an increased focus on projects of cultural significance and authentic portrayal to showcase Wales and the Welsh language and culture to international audiences, with Creative Wales having supported a number of Welsh language productions as well as those delivered back-to-back. The recent Young Content Fund (YCF) delivered by Creative Wales through funding from the Welsh Government's Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru stipulates that all supported projects are bilingual, demonstrating its commitment to increasing the levels of Welsh language content. The fund will lead to the development of new Welsh language animation and live action programming for children and young people. The new original content will engage young people in our history and culture through projects such as an animation and game inspired by the myths and legends of Wales and a comedy sketch show aimed at preschool audience.

Creative Wales' activities are also helping to support indigenous Welsh businesses and promote Welsh language-based music through initiatives such as PYST, an independent digital distribution company. Their work resulted in the rock band, Alffa, becoming the first artist to achieve over a million streams on Spotify with their song *Gwenwyn* in 2018. The song has now over 3.5 million streams and they and other Welsh language artists have broken the one million barrier since.

Creative Wales' support for Welsh grassroots music helps to nurture Welsh based talent and raise wider awareness of Welsh culture, which aims to not just increase the number of Welsh speakers but also to provide a context in which Welsh can flourish.

The Creative Wales Spotify playlist has been running monthly since July 2020 and in February 2023 passed 1,000 songs showcased. Around 25% on average each month are Welsh language tracks.

The Welsh language continues to thrive through music in Wales and is also showing an ability to breakthrough into the wider UK and internationally. Adwaith, a Welsh language female three-piece from Carmarthen won their second Welsh Music Prize (the only act to win more than once), were A listed on BBC 6 Music, named the Independent Venue Week Welsh ambassadors and performed at Glastonbury. Other Welsh language artists such as rapper Sage Todz, multi-instrumentalist N'Famaday Kouyate and indie band Swnami have received national radio play while all performing mostly in Welsh. Both The Guardian and NME have

written articles on the rising popularity of Welsh language music in the past 12 months, while Time Out has published an article on the rise of Welsh rap and hip hop featuring Juice Menace, Amelia Unity and Mace the Great who was a MOBO Rising winner in 2022.

A proportion of Creative Wales' funding to the Books Council of Wales is awarded to address a market failure in the lack of Welsh-language publishing, where the commercial market for Welsh-language titles is not large enough to provide sufficiently varied output and therefore needs structural support, as is the case with other lesser spoken languages across the world. As Creative Wales' delivery partner supporting the publishing industry in Wales, the Books Council of Wales (BCW) is taking forward a range of actions that support the Welsh Government's ambitions for the Welsh language. The BCW works in partnership with other Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies to liaise with members of Grŵp Hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg (Welsh Promotion Group) to share relevant information and identify shared learning and training opportunities. The BCW also aims to work with partners, such as Literature Wales, who play a key role in supporting and developing future writers and authors. This will be essential to address some of the challenges to meeting ambitions of increasing diversity in the short term for Welsh language books written by authors from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, given the smaller numbers of Welsh speakers from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

Video games can be a great vehicle for promoting language and culture. In 2021, a game featuring the Welsh language and based on Welsh mythology – Maid of Sker, achieved a million downloads. Animation can also be a great vehicle for cross cultural content, more readily transcending language boundaries than other screen formats. In March 2023, we delivered a Young Content Fund, supporting eight projects with a combined grant of more than £350,000 with development funding for new bilingual content (animation or live action) for children and young people. This initiative directly addressed the withdrawal of UK Government support for this segment via the now closed Young Audiences Content (YAC) fund.

Research and Development (R&D) has a significant role to play in developing opportunities for content that transcends linguistic boundaries. The Media Cymru R&D programme, which is part funded by Creative Wales, includes a project delivered by S4C to develop innovations to tailor content relevant for specific audiences, aimed at the Welsh language.

Para 1.(e)(i) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation and/or maintenance of at least one newspaper in the regional or minority language.

The daily Welsh online news service [Golwg360](#), owned by Golwg (an independent charity) continues to deliver an independent Welsh language news website with £200k of funding per annum.

BCW also supports a variety of magazines with a grant of £380,000. Following a tender process conducted during the autumn of 2022, 13 titles were successful in securing funding for four years (2023-2027) aimed at the leisure (2,850), literary (600), current affairs (2,200) and children's (1,650) markets. [Sales targets are noted in brackets].

Following additional funding of £135,000 from Creative Wales within Welsh Government, two new magazines will be launched in 2023 – *Hanes Byw* (Welsh history) and an online service dedicated to Welsh football, through the medium of Welsh. This funding also allowed other magazines to review their current structure and look for a more sustainable model, given funding constraints. Two applicants were provided with one year funding, *Y Traethodydd* (literary essays) and *Fferm a Thyddyn* (agricultural history) and development funding was provided to *Klust* (Welsh language music) and *Codi Pais* (women's Welsh literature).

Para 1(f)(ii) apply existing measures for financial assistance also to audiovisual productions in Welsh.

Since its launch in 2020, Creative Wales' production funding has played a key role in increasing the range of quality content portraying Welsh life available to audiences, awarding £16.7m in funding to 32 projects. This includes successes such as *The Pembrokeshire Murders*, *The Pact*, *Wolf* and *Steeltown Murders*. In June 2022, Creative Wales launched a new production funding model to support Wales-based productions and games development companies who are looking to develop productions intended for international audiences. This has built in tighter controls around a number of priority areas, including an increased focus on the Welsh language and delivering the ambitions set out in *Cymraeg 2050*.

Creative Wales Development Funding also supports the development of new content and Creative Wales works closely with broadcasters during delivery of Development Funding rounds to maximise the potential for the projects supported through the funding to be commissioned by broadcasters. This approach has resulted in the funding of productions aimed at S4C, such as Hall of Mirror's development fund to deliver a full broadcast pilot of a dating series format *Phone Date* and Vox Pictures' drama series development project *Jones and Jones*. Projects have also been supported aimed at the BBC, including Hall of Mirrors Media's BBC 2 network series, *Secrets of the Aquarium* and Martha Stone Production's early stage development drama project *Mercy*.

In 2022, Creative Wales entered into a partnership agreement with Ffilm Cymru to support independent feature films with Welsh talent at its heart. The £1m Fund, administered by Ffilm Cymru will enable producers to access support for film production through a single application process. Work is also ongoing to develop a similar arrangement between Creative Wales, Ffilm Cymru and S4C to provide targeted funding to support Welsh language film.

Para 2 – The Parties undertake to guarantee freedom of direct reception of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language, and not to oppose the retransmission of radio and television broadcasts from neighbouring countries in such a language. They further undertake to ensure that no restrictions will be placed on the freedom of expression and free circulation of information in the written press in a language used in identical or similar form to a regional or minority language. The exercise of the abovementioned freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

Please refer to the previous report.

Also, now that most radio and TV channels are available digitally and online, through the BBC iPlayer and the BBC Sounds app for example, Welsh-medium content can be easily accessed across the UK.

Para 3 – The Parties undertake to ensure that the interests of the users of regional or minority languages are represented or taken into account within such bodies as may be established in accordance with the law with responsibility for guaranteeing the freedom and pluralism of the media.

No further information since the previous report.

Article 12 – Cultural activities and facilities

Para 1 – With regard to cultural activities and facilities – especially libraries, video libraries, cultural centres, museums, archives, academies, theatres and cinemas, as well as literary work and film production, vernacular forms of cultural expression, festivals and the culture industries, including *inter alia* the use of new technologies – the Parties undertake, within the territory in which such languages are used and to the extent that the public authorities are competent, have power or play a role in this field:

Para 1(a) to encourage types of expression and initiative specific to regional or minority languages and foster the different means of access to works produced in these languages;

Culture

The sixth Welsh Public Library Standards Framework (2017-20) states that Welsh public library authorities shall ensure that they spend either:

- A minimum average of £750 per annum per 1,000 Welsh-speaking resident population (adults and children under 16) within their authority, from the total library purchasing funds on the purchase of Welsh-language materials, or
- A minimum of 4% of the library materials budget on the purchase of Welsh language materials for adults and children under 16.

Access to electronic Welsh language materials is being provided through an all-Wales public library e-books scheme, working in partnership with the Welsh Books Council. At the time of writing, discussions were in place to secure Welsh language titles for the similar all-Wales public library e-magazines service, and it is anticipated that these titles will be available from spring-summer 2017. In addition, provision of Welsh-language audio e-books are also being explored for a similar all-Wales audio books scheme.

Event Wales

Event Wales funding criteria asks applicants to demonstrate how their event might provide opportunities for Welsh artists or athletes to participate and / or to offer Welsh audiences world class experiences. A number of supported events do this through the specific programming of Welsh-speaking artists or working with local communities or media to engage local visitors and residents in both English and Welsh.

For example, following the successful hosting of the UEFA Champions League Final in 2017 in Cardiff when key messages were broadcast to a global media audience in the year-long lead up to and during the event, the 2018 Volvo Ocean Race in Cardiff Bay again provided an opportunity for Welsh language promotional material about the host city and nation to be showcased at all the international stopovers, reaching territories such as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, China and East Coast US.

In 2022, we welcomed the first major World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) stadium show to the UK for over 30 years. 'Clash at the Castle' provided unique opportunities to showcase the Welsh language to new audiences such as their collaboration with Duolingo (the world's number one language learning app) to produce a guide to iconic WWE words and phrases alongside their Welsh translations.

Alongside these major events, a range of home-grown events also provide a regular platform for showcasing the Welsh language such as the Focus Wales music festival at which Welsh-medium artists have the opportunity to perform to an audience of around 10,000.

Para 1(b) to foster the different means of access in other languages to works produced in regional or minority languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, post-synchronisation and subtitling activities;

The increase in back-to-back delivery of high-end drama, as well as international versions which can be subtitled to any given language, has been instrumental in showcasing Wales and its rich language and culture to wider, global audiences. Successful dramas that are enabling access to a much wider audience as a result of the back-to-back approach include *Y Gwyll (Hinterland)*, *Craith (Hidden)*, *Un Bore Mercher (Keeping Faith)*, *Y Golau (Light in the Hall)* and *Pren ar y Bryn (Tree on a Hill)*. Welsh only dramas are also selling well, such as *Dal y Mellt*, the first solely Welsh-language drama licensed by Netflix and *Yr Amgueddfa* which has sold internationally to Britbox in America and Canada, AXN Mystery in Japan, and EITB in the Basque Country.

In publishing, Welsh author, Manon Steffan Ros, was awarded the 2023 Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing with her book *The Blue Book of Nebo* published by Firefly Press. This book has been translated from its original Welsh *Llyfr Glas Nebo* published by Y Lolfa, which won the Prose Medal in the 2018 National Eisteddfod of Wales. It is the first translated book in 87 years of the awards' history to win and is a significant award for a Welsh author.

There has also been a long tradition of translating Asterix and Tintin from French into Welsh and the same company has then gone on to translate those books into Scots, Scottish Gaelic

and Irish. In addition, a number of authors publish simultaneously in English and Welsh: John Sam Jones (*The Journey is Home/Y Daith Ydi Adra*) and Alys Conran (*Pijin/Pigeon*). Other books have been adapted for television – the most recent and notable example being *Dal y Mellt* screened on Netflix with English subtitles, titled *Rough Cut*.

In delivering our [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#), work is being undertaken to look at the development of Welsh speech technology, including the recognition of Welsh (and English) speech which will help us to transcribe spoken Welsh, and ultimately, to create automatic Welsh subtitles in the future. The Plan has also led to Welsh language speech recognition and automatic translation facilities.

Para 1(c) to foster access in regional or minority languages to works produced in other languages by aiding and developing translation, dubbing, postsynchronisation and subtitling activities;

The Books Council of Wales receives public funds from the Welsh Government to distribute in the form of grants to publishers and booksellers. This enables the publishing sector in Wales to purchase Intellectual Property from popular English-language books and translate these into Welsh for Welsh-language readers to enjoy the content in their own language. These books are often subject to re-printing due to their popularity amongst audiences in Wales.

The Books Council also encourages publishers to adapt and translate children's books from languages other than English. Recent examples would be *Y Parsel Coch (Carreg Gwalch)* a Welsh adaptation of a German edition by Linda Wolfsgruber, illustrated by Gino Alberti from Italy, printed in Slovakia and originally published by a Swiss press.

Netflix has recently introduced Welsh language subtitling on its streaming platforms. This includes the *Red Notice* and *The Adam Project* releases which are being made available with Welsh subtitles.

Para 1(d) to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities of various kinds make appropriate allowance for incorporating the knowledge and use of regional or minority languages and cultures in the undertakings which they initiate or for which they provide backing;

Please refer to Part II, Article 7 paragraph 1(a) of this report.

Para 1(e) to promote measures to ensure that the bodies responsible for organising or supporting cultural activities have at their disposal staff who have a full command of the regional or minority language concerned, as well as of the language(s) of the rest of the population;

Arts Council of Wales (ACW) has appointed a Welsh Language Co-ordinator to create a new 'Working Welsh for the arts' service in partnership with the National Centre for Learning Welsh (the Centre). A suite of offers for staff, freelancers and arts organisations has been created and shared. There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the launch of Welsh in the workplace for the art sector. 175 learners from the sector have signed up for the service with requests continuing to come in – double the number set out in its targets.

ACW's Welsh Language Enabler has met with the Centre and discussions have started to create a long-term plan for the programme. There is an internal need to secure support funding for freelancers attending the residential courses in the future. The Welsh Art Consortium continues to meet regularly.

ACW's Welsh Language Enabler has continued to meet with organisations to offer advice on their Welsh language developments. 6 organisations have taken this offer during this quarter bringing the total for the year to 15. Over 50 individuals have been in conversation with ACW

through Llais y Lle and have been advised accordingly. The majority had not previously applied for funding from ACW. 8 have received further individual guidance. Please refer to Article 7.1.a) for more information on Llais y Lle.

The Welsh Language Enabler has chaired 2 discussions between the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Future Generations Commissioner on the currently under achieved aim of '*Vibrant Culture and thriving Welsh language*' on behalf of the Audit Office for Wales.

Llais y Lle projects have all started, with all having met in Bangor in April. The next meeting will be held in Newport during July and a mentoring programme is underway with the 9 full projects and 6 individuals supported. The Welsh Art Consortium are the mentors.

The culture arm's length bodies all offer a variety of opportunities for members of staff to develop their Welsh language skills and use them in the workplace. This includes formal lessons both face-to-face and online with many employees gaining formal qualifications. More informal opportunities include clubs, buddy schemes and regular chats over cups of coffee for members of staff to practise using their Welsh with a variety of colleagues. Amgueddfa Cymru is a member of the National Centre for Learning Welsh's Cymraeg Gwaith scheme. A number of their staff have learnt Welsh to a very high standard and took part in the second series of *Sain Ffagan* on S4C. The National Library of Wales has recently won an Employer of the Year award given by Dysgu Cymraeg Ceredigion-Powys-Sir Gar, (their provider). Earlier this year, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales established Fforwm Defnydd y Gymraeg (Welsh Language Use Forum), meeting solely through the medium of Welsh, bringing colleagues together and promoting the use of Welsh internally.

Cadw

As part of the Welsh Government, Cadw are required to comply with Welsh Language Standards imposed on the Welsh Ministers. Welsh Language Service Standard (64) requires Cadw to provide a Welsh language reception service at its staffed monuments. To ensure compliance, Cadw aims to achieve bilingual provision at all of its staffed sites through a long-term process of recruitment and training.

Cadw has recently conducted a Welsh Essential Custodian recruitment round that has improved the Welsh language provision at its staffed sites. Cadw has also welcomed suggestions from the Welsh Language Commissioner's office and the Welsh Government Standards team in regards to where to advertise these posts to maximise the visibility of these roles. For short term cover, Cadw uses an agency provider that aims to prioritise finding suitable bilingual applicants.

Building on the existing offer of Welsh Government training and internal workshops, this year Cadw has worked with an external training provider to provide an intensive residential Welsh language training course for Custodians, bespoke to their roles.

Site managers continue to manage working patterns to ensure that Welsh-speaking staff are rota'd appropriately to provide the best bilingual cover possible for their monument.

Para 1(f) to encourage direct participation by representatives of the users of a given regional or minority language in providing facilities and planning cultural activities;

Please refer to Part II, Article 7 paragraph 1(a) of this report.

Cadw has a robust events plan which aims to engage attendees and visitors with their national history through hands on, experience focused, historically relevant events. Led by Cadw's Events Manager, Cadw looks to ensure that our bilingual heritage events celebrate the Welsh

language and Welsh history. These events encourage attendees to engage through their chosen language and also raise awareness with local and international visitors.

Many of these events are created and held in partnership with local stakeholders, artists, experts and community groups. A wonderful example of this is the recent collaborate bilingual event [Heuldro](#), held at Bryn Celli Ddu burial chamber that celebrated the Welsh language and Welsh history in an inventive and engaging way. Cadw aims to continue to build on this work in the future.

Para 1(g) to encourage and/or facilitate the creation of a body or bodies responsible for collecting, keeping a copy of and presenting or publishing works produced in the regional or minority languages;

Wikipedia

The number of Welsh language Wikipedia articles rose from [50,000 to 80,000](#) from 2013 to 2016. By May 2023 there were 278,922 articles and a thriving group of editors. This increase led to the Welsh language becoming the 45th most influential language on the planet, according to the 2022 World Language Barometer. The Welsh Government is working with, and funding organisations which encourage writing and publishing Wikipedia articles in Welsh, such as the National Library of Wales, the Welsh Wikipedia Editors' Group and Menter Môn's WiciMôn programme of writing articles relevant to young people.

Culture

As stated in its Supplemental Royal Charter of 2006, the object (or purpose) of the National Library of Wales is to *'collect, preserve and give access to all kinds and forms of recorded knowledge, especially relating to Wales and the Welsh and other Celtic peoples, for the benefit of the public, including those engaged in research and learning.'*

The National Library of Wales hosts the Wales Broadcast Archive which includes the archives of the major broadcasters – BBC Cymru Wales, ITV Wales, and S4C (the Welsh language broadcaster). The archive documents a century of broadcasting in Wales in both English and Welsh. The entire collection is available at the National Library of Wales, but elements of the collection can be accessed through 'Clip Centres' located in local archive services and libraries across Wales.

The National Library is also one of the six UK and Ireland legal deposit libraries, and is eligible to receive a copy of all printed and non-print publications under UK legislation. It has an extensive collection of published material in the Welsh language.

The Supplemental Royal Charter 2006 for Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum

Wales states that its objects (or purposes) are the advancement of the education of the public:

- *Primarily by the comprehensive representation of science, art, industry, history and culture of, or relevant to, Wales and*
- *Generally by the collection, recording, preservation, elucidation and presentation of objects and things and associated knowledge, whether connected or not with Wales, which are calculated to further the enhancement of understanding and the promotion of research.*

As part of its work *'provid[ing] for the survey and recording of ancient and historical monuments and constructions connected with, or illustrative of, the contemporary culture, civilisation and conditions of the life of the people in Wales from the earliest times'*, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales presents and publishes works in both Welsh and English.

Para 1(h) if necessary, to create and/or promote and finance translation and terminological research services, particularly with a view to maintaining and developing appropriate administrative, commercial, economic, social, technical or legal terminology in each regional or minority language.

The *Cymraeg 2050* strategy includes a commitment to continue to develop Welsh linguistic infrastructure in order to facilitate the journey to a million speakers. The latest *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme* for 2021-26 also includes the following commitment:

“...continue to take steps to maintain and strengthen linguistic infrastructure in terms of dictionaries, terminology and corpus resources. This is an important area that will underpin how the Welsh language is used in everyday life - in the media, in education, in public services and so on. Our aim is to make it easier for people to use these resources. We’ll also work to protect Welsh place names that are an integral part of our heritage.”

By ‘linguistic infrastructure’, we mean those things that help people use Welsh from day to day – such as dictionaries, terminologies, corpora, and work done in the background to standardise aspects of the language. In relation to Welsh, this field has developed reactively over a number of decades, with a number of solutions and projects commissioned on an ad hoc basis, with very little strategic oversight as to the bigger picture.

In the context of the target of a million speakers, the lack of coordination and leadership was construed as a barrier to language use – not only causing confusion to proficient Welsh-speakers, but acting as a deterrent for new speakers who didn’t know how to find authoritative resources.

In response to this need, on 16 March 2021, we launched a consultation on the draft version of a [National policy on Welsh linguistic infrastructure](#). The consultation period ran for 16 weeks and requested feedback on proposals for making it easier for people to use Welsh linguistic resources. A [summary of responses](#) was published on 28 September 2021.

86% of those who responded to the consultation agreed with the proposed approach of developing a policy to better coordinate Welsh linguistic infrastructure, by:

- Making it easier for the user to find answers.
- Ensuring a more consistent user experience by creating a “one stop shop” so that people can find relevant words easily and in one place.
- Avoiding duplication and gaps in provision.
- Horizon-scanning and being proactive, so that we’re aware of gaps in provision and prepared to create and standardise new terms as soon as possible.
- Coordinating across resources for the benefit of all.

As a result, on 27 June 2023 we published our final [Welsh linguistic infrastructure policy](#). The major actions included in the policy are to set up a unit within the Welsh Government to coordinate different aspects of linguistic infrastructure, and to develop a website to help anyone who uses Welsh to find resources appropriate for their needs.

Work continued in this area as we developed the policy. This included work in relation to dictionaries, which play an important role in making sure that information about the definition of words, and their translations, are available to their users.

At present we provide £300k a year for [Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru](#) (GPC) to maintain and update this historical academic Welsh dictionary. GPC is the standard historical Welsh dictionary, originally prepared between 1921 and 2002 by the University of Wales, and which continues to be updated. It is similar in status to the *Oxford English Dictionary*. This is the foundation for all other reference books for the Welsh language e.g. dictionaries, terminology work, grammar books, decisions on orthography (i.e. how words are spelled) and so forth. This resource is also available in the form of an app.

In relation to terminology, we provide £150,571 a year for the [Termiadur Addysg](#). A Welsh Government-sponsored resource, developed by the Terminology and Language Technology Unit at Bangor University, it provides standardised terms for the education sector. These are the standardised terms used in Welsh-medium exam papers and assessments, as well as resources of all sorts for teachers and students. This terminology can also be searched through the [Welsh National Terminology Portal](#).

The Welsh Government's own Translation Service also maintains a highly respected terminology resource called [TermCymru](#). This is a searchable collection of terms that Welsh Government translators use in their everyday work. It is regularly updated with a view to providing a comprehensive database of standardised terms which reflect current usage in different aspects of the Government's work. As well as being able to search the database, you can also download it in its entirety under open licence, which gives more flexibility than offering it in searchable form only.

One of our reasons for developing a Linguistic Infrastructure Policy (see above) was to ensure terminology for the Welsh language is up to date, and that any gaps are plugged as soon as possible. Two such scenarios arose as we developed the policy, namely in the field of race and ethnicity, and LGBTQ+. It was strongly felt that Welsh terms in these areas needed updating.

Regarding terms in the area of race and ethnicity, when it became apparent that there was a lack of contemporary terms when discussing race and ethnicity in Welsh, we established a group chaired by Bangor University to standardise terms in the field. This was done through consultation with language experts and individuals from various backgrounds, to produce an up-to-date list of terms for the field. The terms were published in February 2023 on the Welsh Government's [website](#), and prominent on-line terminology databases [BydTermCymru](#) and [Porth Termau Cenedlaethol Cymru](#). The work is an excellent example of how the steps set out in our Linguistic Infrastructure Policy help make the different aspects of 'linguistic infrastructure' work together smoothly, and facilitate collaboration between different projects. The lessons learned during this process will be valuable as we continue to work to standardise further packages of terminology, so that people can confidently use the Welsh language to discuss any topic.

A similar scenario arose in relation to LGBTQ+ terms. In response, the Welsh Government published its national [LGBTQ+ Equality Action Plan](#) in early 2023. This Action Plan includes a LGBTQ+ Glossary of Terms in Welsh and English, as well as definitions that have been used in Welsh Government publications and legislation.

In order to address the longstanding need to standardise certain aspects of Welsh language orthography (which is essential in order to produce consistent terminology and lexicon), we

established a Welsh Language Standardisation Panel, chaired by Professor Dylan Foster Evans. The Panel has met 6 times since January 2021, and continue to meet regularly to work through the first set of orthographical issues included in the Work Programme. The new Welsh Language Infrastructure Unit established under the Linguistic Infrastructure policy will coordinate the process of sharing the Panel's orthographical decisions with relevant stakeholders, ensuring that they update their resources according to the Panel's decisions.

Para 2. In respect of territories other than those in which the regional or minority languages are traditionally used, the Parties undertake, if the number of users of a regional or minority language justifies it, to allow, encourage and/or provide appropriate cultural activities and facilities in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Please refer to Article 7.1.i).

There continues to be several active Welsh language societies and networks in cities in the UK outside Wales, and around the world.

The SaysomethinginWelsh [service](#) also offers different ways which allow people to identify other Welsh speakers in their country across the world.

The Duolingo app enables learners to learn various languages online, wherever they are in the world, at a time that is convenient to them. In 2020, during the COVID-19 lockdown, Duolingo reported that Welsh was the fastest growing language in the UK according to the level of registrations on its website. The number of new learners using Duolingo to learn Welsh increased by 44% in 2020. At that period in time, Welsh was the ninth most popular language to learn on the app in the UK.

Para 3. The Parties undertake to make appropriate provision, in pursuing their cultural policy abroad, for regional or minority languages and the cultures they reflect.

Wales Arts International

Wales Arts International (WAI) is the international team of Arts Council of Wales which is funded by the Welsh Government. Its international strategy places equal value on artistic work either created bilingually, or in the Welsh language, or in the English language. It recognises that the use and promotion of the Welsh language is integral to the representation of Wales internationally through arts and culture and that it is important to enable artists and cultural organisations from Wales to present their work in the Welsh language, to increase awareness overseas of Welsh as a living language, and to facilitate exchange and dialogue across a diversity of languages.

WAI aims to ensure equality of access to support and representation for artists and cultural organisations from Wales working internationally. It works to ensure that Wales and the Welsh language is appropriately represented within wider UK cultural promotion abroad and works closely with Welsh Government and UK agencies. It also works to ensure that the selection of artists and cultural organisations from Wales at international trade events is representative of the linguistic environment of Wales, providing visibility and an international platform for cultural activity in Welsh. All international funding opportunities for artists and cultural organisations are promoted in Welsh and English and all promotional material, digital and online, are produced in Welsh and English as minimum.

Wider Arts Council of Wales support enables the development of initiatives to increase access to artistic work created in the Welsh language and these are used to engage international audiences with the Welsh language.

WAI is active within a number of European and international networks and projects with a focus on artistic activity through minority languages, thus stimulating greater exchange and the sharing of best practice.

International relations

The [*International Strategy for Wales*](#) was launched in 2020. It notes in the strategy that in five years' time, Wales wants to be known as the go-to nation for language development using our experiences in this area to work with other countries and minority languages in three main ways:

- Development of language technologies, such as machine translation, speech recognition and artificial intelligence for minority languages.
- Our approach to late language immersion – the creation of centres which allow children who have been taught through the medium of English to transfer into Welsh-medium education part-way through their school careers.
- Promoting the use of minority languages by artists when they perform on the international stage.

Officials have continued to put the Welsh language at the forefront of implementing the *International Strategy for Wales*. This includes sharing good practice and supporting countries with minority languages around the world. The work to embed the Welsh language in everyday life not only supports the development of Welsh in Wales and the creation of a truly bilingual Wales, but has the potential to support other bilingual and multilingual countries around the world.

International events and visits

As part of the *International Strategy for Wales*, we continue to promote and support Welsh language opportunities at international level. Some examples are included below:

The Wales in France year (2023) is a themed year of activity to showcase the relationship between France and Wales. Previous themed years have included Germany (2021) and Canada (2022) as part of the Welsh Government's renewed push to increase Wales' international profile and increase collaboration after leaving the European Union.

The Cymraeg 2050 Division is a member of the Wales in France steering group and contributed to its strategy to ensure that the language is placed at the heart of all activities to showcase Wales as a confident bilingual nation and to support the minority languages of France, Breton in particular. A wide range of activities are scheduled in partnership with key stakeholders such as Wales Arts International, for example a project between The Centre for Learning Welsh and the Nantes Language Centre to offer free taster sessions to staff and volunteers during the Rugby World Cup France 2023.

Patagonia

Please refer to Article 7.1.i) for references to the Patagonia project

Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD)

Please refer to Article 7.1.e) for references to the NPLD.

The British-Irish Council (BIC)

Please refer to Article 7.1.e) for references to the BIC.

United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32

The Welsh Government is pleased to be part of UNESCO's International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32. We will share good practice with others across the world as part of our commitment to being a globally responsible nation. It will also be an opportunity for us to demonstrate global responsibility by increasing awareness across the world of Wales as a bilingual nation.

To date, this work has included continuing to develop and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders such as Wales Arts International. Initial preparatory work included contributing to UNESCO's online World Atlas of Languages. Welsh Government officials have met with UNESCO officials in order to prepare to work together on digital projects that will benefit all languages and to look at how we evaluate language vitality. UNESCO also plan to nominate a community where we can reach out to offer language policy intervention support.

Bilateral / Memorandums of understanding

Welsh Ministers have signed a number of bilateral and Memorandum of understanding agreements with other countries and regions in order to build a mutually beneficial relationship and to further cooperation across various policies including language policy.

The following lists some of our active bilateral agreements at country or regional level:

- Quebec: Declaration of Intent – signed 2020
- Brittany: Memorandum of Understanding – re-Signed 2021
- Ireland: Joint Statement – signed 2021
- Flanders: Memorandum of Understanding – signed 2023
- Catalunya – currently being drafted
- The Basque Country – re-signed 2021

International visits

The Minister (vice-counsel) for the Basque Language, visited Wales in October 2022 and took part in a conference jointly organised by the Welsh Government and the NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity) focussing on the role of monolingual spaces in providing opportunities for people to use their minority languages.

During her visit to Wales the Minister (vice-counsel) for the Basque Language met with Welsh Government's Minister for Education and Welsh Language to discuss the Basque Government's legislative plans in relation to the Basque language and education.

The Minister for Education and Welsh Language and officials will visit the Basque Country later this year (2023) to develop discussions, this time with the Basque Education Minister, to learn about the most recent developments in relation to their pending education legislation.

The Minister for Education and Welsh Language and officials will also visit Patagonia in Argentina later this year during their Eisteddfod in Trelew which will provide a platform to network with stakeholders and the Welsh community. It will also provide an opportunity to investigate whether a stronger bond should be forged between the National Eisteddfod in

Wales, the Urdd Eisteddfod and the smaller local Eisteddfodau (in Wales and beyond) as a hook to bridge the communities.

European Charter Classroom Activities (ECCA)

In May of this year, three students represented Wales in the ECCA campus on the Balearic Islands. The campus brought together young people from across Europe who speak minority languages. The Welsh Government is one of the key strategic partners of the project.

Article 13 – Economic and Social Life

Para 1 – With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, within the whole country:

Para 1(a) to eliminate from their legislation any provision prohibiting or limiting without justifiable reasons the use of regional or minority languages in documents relating to economic or social life, particularly contracts of employment, and in technical documents such as instructions for the use of products or installations;

No additional information since the previous report. However, reference should be made to the operational standards within the Welsh Language Standards system which are discussed at Article 10 of this report.

Para 1(c) to oppose practices designed to discourage the use of regional or minority languages in connection with economic or social activities;

The Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan

On 11 October 2022, we announced [the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan](#) – a Programme for Government priority. This plan tackles the challenges facing Welsh-speaking communities with a high concentration of second homes, and is one of several workstreams dealing with issues concerning the affordability of housing, second homes and the Welsh language.

The Plan includes a variety of interventions which bridge economic development, housing, community development and linguistic planning. We're working closely with the pilot scheme in the Dwyfor area – a stronghold for the language which also has a cluster of communities with a high number of second homes. We have also set up a grant scheme worth up to £250k to support and set up new cooperative initiatives, with the aim of building community groups' competence to create new cooperatives. The grants have been distributed to 21 community groups. The Plan also sets out the importance of working with estate agents and relevant stakeholders to better understand the local housing market and to share information about numerous schemes that are available to help people buy or rent properties; of giving a 'fair chance' for local buyers and renters to support local people to rent or buy properties; of developing a network of Cultural Ambassadors to promote culture, heritage and the Welsh language with new residents in our communities; and of taking steps to protect Welsh language place names.

Welsh Government officials continue to engage with community groups, local authorities, grant partners (the mentrau iaith / language initiatives, the Urdd, the National Eisteddfod, Merched y Wawr and the National Centre for Learning Welsh) as well as members of the Welsh Language Partnership Council, to elicit their input to this work. There has also been close cooperation between Welsh Government departments in order to ensure that no opportunities are missed. The response to the Plan has been positive.

The Commission for Welsh-speaking Communities

As part of the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan*, and following the publication of the report, [Second Homes: developing new policies in Wales](#), we confirmed that we would establish a Commission to make recommendations to the Welsh Government in order to safeguard the future of the Welsh language as a community language. The Commission will consider the challenges facing Welsh-speaking communities and gain a better understanding of the linguistic, socio-economic and social restructuring challenges post COVID-19 and the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.

The Commission's work will contribute to the process of developing new policies in order to strengthen the Welsh language in communities considered traditional strongholds. This will contribute to the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy's aim of seeing an increase not only in the number of Welsh speakers, but also to double the number of those who use it on a daily basis. In November 2022, the Commission announced a Call for Evidence in order to collate ideas about how to strengthen our Welsh language communities. A summary of responses to this exercise was published in May this year.

The Commission published a [Position Paper](#) at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Carmarthenshire on 1 June 2023, which discusses the idea of designating 'areas of higher density linguistic significance' in order to vary public policy in socio-economic and socio-linguistic areas which affect Welsh-speaking communities. The Commission recognises that Welsh is a language for all of Wales, but that different methods of promoting its use may be needed in different parts of Wales. The final report, alongside recommendations for the Welsh Government, will be published in August 2024.

ARFOR and ARFOR 2

The original ARFOR ran from 2019-21, and was a programme that worked across the local authorities of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Ceredigion, and Carmarthenshire. These regions are often referred to as 'the heartlands' of the Welsh language; rural, with relatively deprived local authorities and a large percentage of Welsh speakers within their population. The local authorities share common social, economic, cultural and language characteristics as well as a desire to work in partnership in response to the challenges facing their communities.

The aim of the ARFOR programme was to develop economic interventions, which would have a positive impact on the number of Welsh speakers and the viability of the Welsh language. Specifically, the programme sought to create more and better jobs. This reflected the widely held logic underpinning the approach, namely that as (mainly young) people were leaving the area due to a lack of good jobs, creating more and better jobs would stem outmigration and the associated loss of Welsh speakers to the area.

Following on from the original ARFOR pilot, the ARFOR 2 programme will also be delivered by the local authorities and will again be operational in Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. ARFOR 2 was launched in October 2022, alongside the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan*. It will support a number of strategic interventions, including a focus on opportunities for young people and families to enable them to stay or return to their home communities – and to fulfil their aspirations locally.

This programme will make an important contribution to the Welsh Government's wider Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050*, and aims to complement existing or planned activity which is of relevance for example Business Wales, Big Ideas, SMART innovation, *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan* and other programmes.

The ARFOR 2 programme will seek to:

- Create opportunities for young people and families (under 35 years old) to stay in or return to their home communities – supporting them to succeed locally by engaging in enterprise or developing a career.
- Create enterprising communities within Welsh-speaking areas – by supporting commercial and community enterprises that aim to preserve and increase local wealth by taking advantage of the identity and unique qualities of their areas.
- Maximise the benefit of activity through collaboration – to ensure that good practice and lessons learnt are shared and that there is on-going monitoring to ensure continuous improvement.
- Strengthen the identity of communities with a high density of Welsh-speakers – by supporting the use and visibility of the Welsh language, encouraging a sense of place.

The ARFOR 2 programme will also look to promote the learning and sharing of good practice and to broaden our understanding of the links between economy and language, and where relevant housing, and identify those interventions which can make a difference.

Para 2. With regard to economic and social activities, the Parties undertake, in so far as the public authorities are competent, within the territory in which the regional or minority languages are used, and as far as this is reasonably possible:

Para 2(b) in the economic and social sectors directly under their control (public sector), to organise activities to promote the use of regional or minority languages;

Reference should be made to all sections within this report which discuss the Welsh Language Standards system and their impact on the bodies to which they apply is discussed, particularly Part II Article 7 paragraph 1 (c), and Part III Article 10.

Para 2(c) to ensure that social care facilities such as hospitals, retirement homes and hostels offer the possibility of receiving and treating in their own language persons using a regional or minority language who are in need of care on grounds of ill-health, old age or for other reasons;

More than just words plan 2022-27

More than just words is the Welsh Government's strategic framework to strengthen Welsh language provision in health and social care. Its aim is to support Welsh-speakers to receive services in their first language.

In October 2021, the Minister for Health and Social Services announced that she would be establishing a small task and finish group to develop a five-year plan for *More than just words*, following an independent [evaluation](#) of the framework.

The task and finish group considered patients' experience, evidence from Welsh Government, the NHS and social care, regulators, professional bodies and from the education and training sectors.

The five-year plan, [More than just words: Welsh language plan in health and social care](#), was launched in August 2022 and is based on the following themes, which emerged from the task and finish group's work:

- Culture and leadership
- Welsh language planning and policies
- Supporting and developing Welsh language skills of the workforce
- Sharing best practice and developing an enabling approach.

A performance management framework will measure progress against actions in the plan and a new advisory board is being established with the Minister meeting the board once a year to discuss progress against the plan.

In Wales, almost 200,000 staff deliver health and social care, by far the largest employer in Wales. There is therefore a huge opportunity for health and social care to become exemplars in providing Welsh language services and to contribute to the Welsh Government's ambition to increase language use and the number of Welsh speakers by 2050.

Para 2(e) to arrange for information provided by the competent public authorities concerning the rights of consumers to be made available in regional or minority languages.

Reference should be made to the duties on local authorities under the Welsh Language Standards system which is reported at Part III Article 10 and elsewhere in this report.