

Easy Read

# A guide to your National Assembly for Wales

This is an easy read version of the National Assembly Wales guide 'Your National Assembly'.

October 2018



# How to use this booklet



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand. You may need help and support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.

Some words may be difficult to understand. These are in **bold blue** writing and have been explained in a box beneath the word.

If any of the words are used later in the booklet they are shown in **normal blue** writing. You can look up what they mean on page 26.



Where the document says **we**, this means the **National Assembly for Wales**.



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



Assembly Booking and Information Service  
National Assembly for Wales  
North Wales Visitor Centre  
Princes Park, Princes Drive  
Colwyn Bay, Conwy  
LL29 8PL



Phone: 0300 200 6565



Hawdd ei Ddeall Cymru  
Easy Read Wales

This document was made into easy read by Easy Read Wales using Photosymbols.

# Contents

## Page

About the National Assembly for Wales.....	4
How were the National Assembly and Welsh Government formed?.....	6
How to vote in an Assembly election.....	8
What powers do Assembly Members have in Wales?.....	12
How can your Assembly Members help you?.....	16
How do Assembly Members make laws for Wales?.....	18
How do Assembly Members agree to new Welsh taxes?.....	20
How do Assembly Members check what the government is doing?.....	22
How to get more information.....	25
Hard words .....	26



# About the National Assembly for Wales



The National Assembly is made up of 60 **Assembly Members** from across Wales.



Assembly Members are voted for by people in Wales during elections. The job of Assembly Members is to:



- stand up for what is important to the people of Wales



- help make new laws for Wales



- make sure everything is right with **public services** like local hospitals, schools and the transport

**Public services** are services paid for by the government for everyone to use like hospitals, schools or transport.





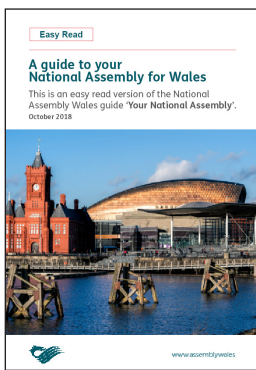
- make sure the Welsh Government is doing its job.



Since 1999, Wales has been making lots of its own decisions. This is because Wales is a **devolved** nation.



**Devolved** means that the UK Parliament has agreed that the National Assembly and Welsh Government can make their own decisions about important things like health and education in Wales.



This guide is about how the National Assembly works in Wales.

# How were the National Assembly and Welsh Government formed?



In the year 1999, the National Assembly for Wales was a single organisation made up of two groups – the **Executive** and the **Legislature**.



The **Executive** group spent money and looked after Wales' **public services**.



The **Legislature** group checked how the money was spent and made sure the **Executive** group was doing things properly.



In 2006, the 2 groups were separated into 2 new organisations: **Welsh Government** and the **National Assembly for Wales**.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Welsh Government:



- spends money on **public services**



- makes choices on what is important to the people of Wales.



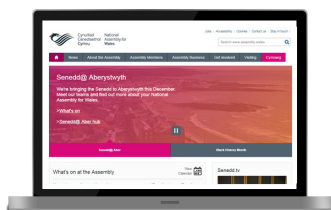
## National Assembly for Wales:



- makes laws for Wales



- checks on the spending and choices made by the Welsh Government.



If you have any questions about the difference between the National Assembly and the Welsh Government, please check our website [www.assembly.wales](http://www.assembly.wales)



# How to vote in an Assembly election



Every 5 years there is an Assembly election.



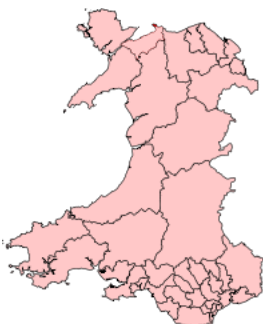
At the election you get to choose the Assembly Member for your area.



The Assembly Members you choose stand up for what is important to the people of Wales like health, education, housing and transport.



You have 2 votes in the Assembly election: the **constituency** vote and the **regional** vote.



**Constituency** is your local area. For example, Caerphilly is a constituency in South Wales and Wrexham is a constituency in North Wales.



A **region** is a group of local areas. There are 5 **regions** in Wales:

- North Wales
- Mid and West Wales
- South Wales West
- South Wales Central
- South Wales East.



What is the **constituency** vote?

Tick who you vote for

	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

- You choose 1 person you want from your **constituency**.



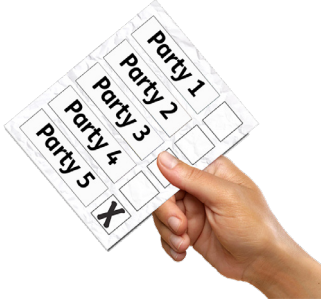
- The person who has the most votes becomes your **constituency** Assembly Member.



- Wales has 40 **constituencies**. Every **constituency** sends an Assembly Member to the National Assembly.



## What is the **regional** vote?



- You choose which political party or person you want from your **region**.



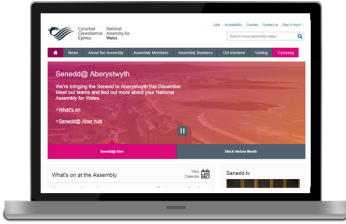
- Wales has 5 **regions**, each made up of many **constituencies**.







- Each **region** sends 4 Assembly Members to the National Assembly.



If you have questions about Assembly elections, please check our website [www.assembly.wales/elections](http://www.assembly.wales/elections).



# What powers do Assembly Members have in Wales?



Assembly Members have to stand up for what is important to the people of Wales.



These are called **devolved matters**. **Devolved matters** include:



- Agriculture



- Ancient monuments



- Culture



- Education



- Environment



- Health



- Housing



- Planning

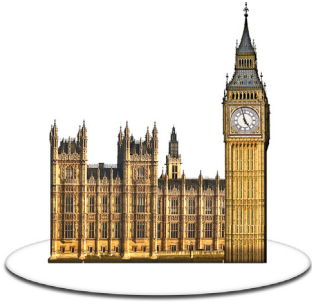


- Tourism



- Welsh language.





The UK Parliament and UK Government have power on matters that include other parts of the UK.



These are called **reserved matters**. **Reserved matters** include:



- Air transport



- Money



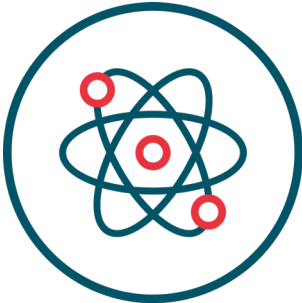
- Defence



- Foreign matters



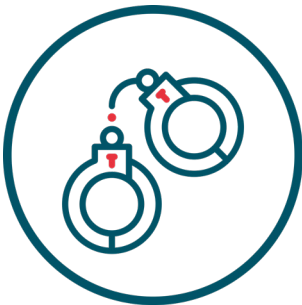
- Nationality and immigration



- Nuclear energy



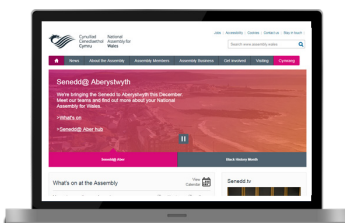
- Outer space



- Policing



- Benefits.



If you have any question about what powers are given to Wales and what is not given, please check our website [www.assembly.wales/powers](http://www.assembly.wales/powers)

# How can your Assembly Member help you?



Assembly Members do their work in an office in their own area.



Assembly Members are part of your community.



You can visit them at their office and tell them about issues that are important to you.



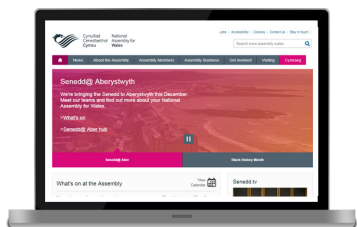




Your Assembly Member can talk about your issues at the National Assembly.



They can ask questions in an open meeting with all 60 Assembly Members to talk about issues and how to make them better.



You can find out about your Assembly Member and how to contact them on our website [www.assembly.wales/members](http://www.assembly.wales/members).





# How do Assembly Members make laws for Wales?



The Assembly Members you choose look at new laws and vote on if they should be passed.



Laws are rules that help make sure everyone is treated equally and with respect.



Laws also protect people and can help to solve arguments when they happen.



The UK Parliament makes laws for all parts of the UK.



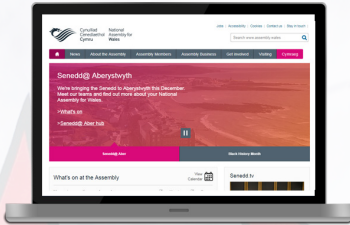
But from 2007, the National Assembly has been making laws just for Wales.



The Assembly Members can take care of problems that are important to you by making laws.



The National Assembly makes laws on things that are important to the people of Wales.



If you have questions about how the National Assembly makes laws, please check our website: [www.assembly.wales/legislation](http://www.assembly.wales/legislation).





# How do Assembly Members agree to new Welsh taxes?



Assembly Members listen to what you have to say about a new Welsh **tax** and talk about it at the National Assembly.

**Tax** is money you pay to the government to pay for services like schools, hospitals and transport.



HM Revenue  
& Customs

You pay tax in different ways. **HM Revenue and Customs** collect **taxes** from people in the UK.

**HM Revenue and Customs** is a UK government department that is responsible for collecting **taxes**.

 Awdurdod Cyllid Cymru  
Welsh Revenue Authority

For the first time, Wales is able to collect its own **tax** money. The **Welsh Revenue Authority** collects some **taxes** from people in Wales.

The **Welsh Revenue Authority** is a Welsh Government department that is responsible for collecting some **taxes** in Wales.

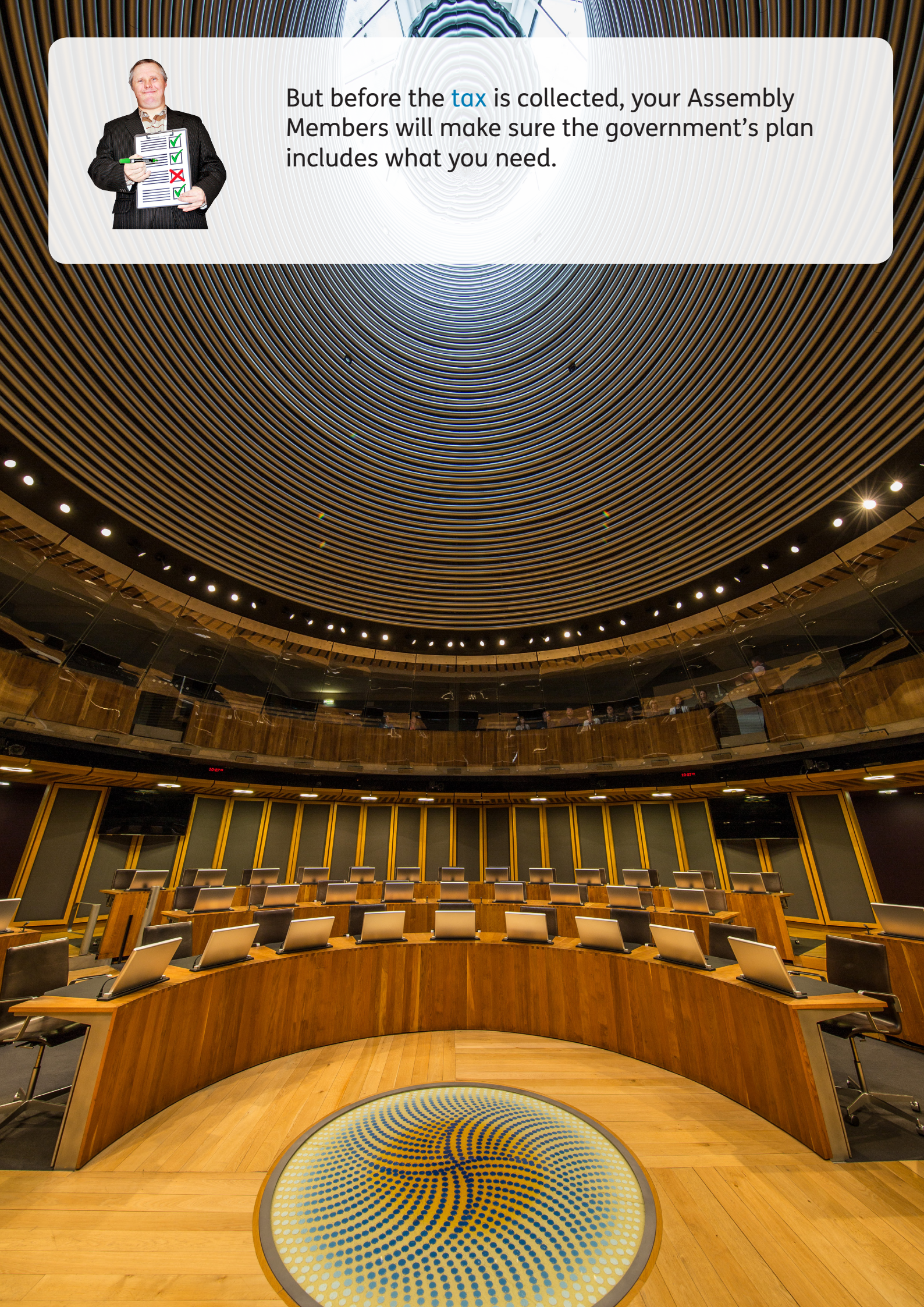
2018

From 2018 some **taxes** collected in Wales will be spent by the Welsh Government on **public services** in Wales.





But before the **tax** is collected, your Assembly Members will make sure the government's plan includes what you need.





# How do Assembly Members check what the government is doing?



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Assembly Members make sure the Welsh Government is doing its best for the people of Wales. The Welsh Government's job is to:



- make big decisions about Wales



- say what laws it thinks Wales needs



- make **policies**

**Policies** are plans or actions agreed on by the Welsh Government.



- spend money on **public services** like hospitals, schools and roads.

But it is your Assembly Members who:



- look at new laws for Wales and vote on if they should be passed.



- check the **policies** written by the Welsh Government



- look at how money is spent on **public services** like hospitals, schools and roads.

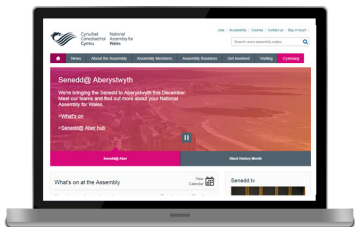




If you are not happy with what the Welsh Government is doing, you can speak to any one of your 5 Assembly Members.

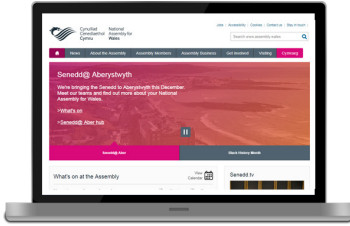


They can talk about your issues with other Assembly Members at the National Assembly.



If you want to contact your Assembly Members, please check our website: [www.assembly.wales/members](http://www.assembly.wales/members).

# How to get more information



You can find out about your Assembly Members on our website: [www.assembly.wales/members](http://www.assembly.wales/members). You must use your postcode in the postcode search to find out who is your Assembly Member.



If you have questions about our work, please check our website: [www.assembly.wales](http://www.assembly.wales).



You can also email: [contact@assembly.wales](mailto:contact@assembly.wales).



Or phone: 0300 200 6565



You can follow the National Assembly for Wales on Facebook [NationalAssemblyforWales](https://www.facebook.com/NationalAssemblyforWales).



and Twitter [@AssemblyWales](https://twitter.com/AssemblyWales).

If you want to speak to us in person, you can visit the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. The address is:



The Senedd, Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA



# Hard words

## Constituency

Constituency is your local area. For example, Caerphilly is a constituency in South Wales and Wrexham is a constituency in North Wales.

## Devolved

Devolved means that the UK Parliament has agreed that the National Assembly and Welsh Government can make their own decisions about important things like health and education in Wales.

## HM Revenue and Customs

HM Revenue and Customs is a UK government department that is responsible for collecting tax.

## Policies

Policies are plans or actions agreed on by the Welsh Government.

## Public services

Public services are services paid for by the government for everyone to use like hospitals, schools or transport.

## Region

A region is a group of local areas. There are 5 regions in Wales: North Wales, Mid and West Wales, South Wales West, South Wales Central and South Wales East.

## Tax

Tax is money you pay to the government to pay for services like schools, hospitals and transport.

## Welsh Revenue Authority

The Welsh Revenue Authority is a Welsh Government department that is responsible for collecting some taxes in Wales.