

The Future of Wales

Looking at how Wales should be run



This document was written by the **ICCFW**. It is an easy read version of 'Executive Summary of the Final Report'.

December 2023

How to use this document



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Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 11**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales (ICCFW)**. For more information contact:

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Introduction



We are called the **Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales**.

We have 2 goals:



1. To look at options for how Wales is run and its links with the UK.



2. To look at all options for how **democracy** in Wales should be run in the best interests of the people of Wales.



Democracy is the system where people vote for who they want to be in power.



It is really important to talk about all the options openly.

What people said

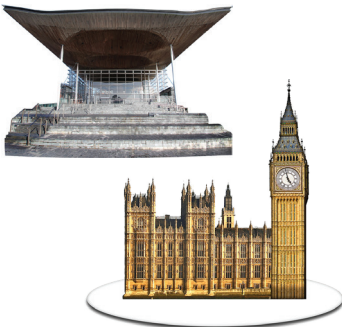


We asked the people of Wales how they see the future of our country.



This helped us understand how people see the way things work now. And how Wales could be run in the future.

The options for the future are based on these 3 main ideas:



- That Wales is run similar to how it is now but with more powers than it has now. (we call this **enhanced devolution**)



- That some topics are decided entirely in Wales and others entirely by the UK government (we call this a **federal UK**)

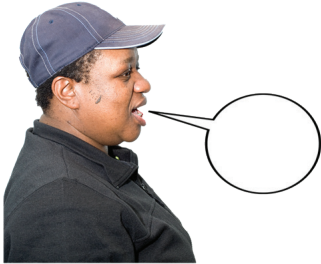


- That Wales becomes completely independent from the UK.



Many people feel they have no influence over government actions.

We think 3 things need to happen to make our **democracy** stronger:



1. The Welsh Government should make sure more communities get the chance to have a say. A panel could be set up to find the best way to achieve this.



2. It is also important for people to be taught more about how politics affects them.



3. The Welsh Government should set up a project where a group of people write a statement on how the government should be run.



4. There must be enough money to make sure these changes work properly.

Protecting devolution



Devolution means Wales has **more** control over how it is run. It means the UK government has less control over certain things.



Since **Brexit**, the UK Government (Westminster) have not always followed the rules about **devolution** and Wales.

We have given options for protecting **devolution**. They are:



1. The Welsh Government should ask that all 4 UK Governments work together in a more equal way.

2. The Welsh Government should ask the UK Government to pass new laws about changes to **devolution**.



It means the UK government would need to talk to the other governments before making changes to **devolution**.



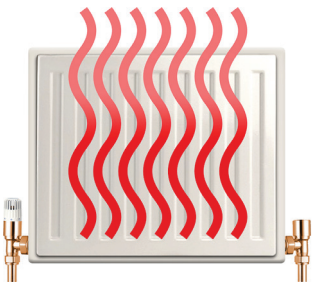
3. The Welsh Government should have more control over managing its budget.



4. The police and justice services should be managed by the Welsh Government, not the UK Government. This could happen over time.



5. The Welsh Government should manage rail services that are currently run by the UK Department of Transport.



6. The UK and Welsh governments should set up a group to look at how best to manage energy. This will help Wales achieve **net zero**.



Net zero means the fuel we use does not cause the planet to heat up. Fuels like oil and gas cause a substance called **carbon**. This heats up and damages the planet. **Net zero** means we are not making too much **carbon**.



7. The Welsh and UK Government should agree on Wales having a stronger say on **broadcasting**. This means how radio and TV are managed.



8. These changes are needed urgently to protect **devolution**, whatever choice people make about the options for the long term.

What happens outside of Wales



People can't make decisions about how Wales is run, without knowing about what is happening in the rest of the UK.



We have looked at options for how all countries could be run. And what these changes would mean.



Last year we made a report about 3 options for how Wales could be run.



We have looked more closely at these options.



We think each option could work. There are strengths and weaknesses with each one.



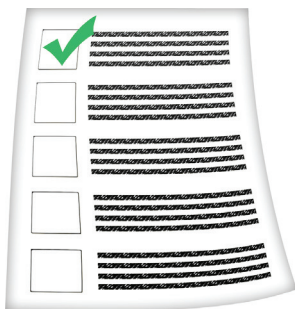
We will not say which option is best because it depends on a number of things.



For example, how much importance you give to different areas. Or how much risk people want to take.



We can't make this decision. Political parties and the public need to decide this.



All the options should be talked about. The best thing for Wales needs to be thought about.



People need to get enough information so they can make good choices.

Hard words

Democracy

This is the system where people vote for who they want to be in power.

Devolution

This means Wales has more control over how it is run. It means the UK government has less control over certain things.

Net zero

Net zero means the fuel we use does not cause the planet to heat up. Fuels like oil and gas cause a substance called **carbon**. This heats up and damages the planet. Net zero means we are not making too much **carbon**.