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What is the Senedd?

March 2026

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About this document



This is an Easy Read version of: [What is the Senedd?](#)



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Where the document says **we**, this means the **Electoral Management Board for Wales** For more information contact:

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What is the Senedd?

The Senedd is Welsh Parliament, it:



- Oversees the work Welsh Government does.



- Represents you and your voting area.



In 1997 people in Wales voted. They wanted to move decision making powers from UK Parliament in London, to Wales.



So, in 1999 the National Assembly for Wales was set up.



The National Assembly for Wales is now called the Senedd - or Welsh Parliament.



In 2011 people voted to give the Senedd more power - to make its own laws.

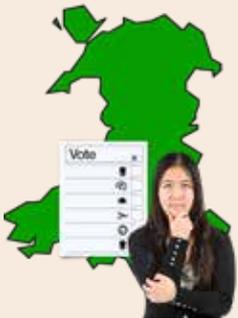


You can find out more about what the Senedd does here: [What does the Senedd do.](#)

Members of the Senedd



The Senedd is made up of Members of the Senedd. Called MS's for short.



People in Wales vote for MS's in Senedd elections.



In 2026 the number of MS's we have is going up from 60 to 96 MS's.



Wales will be split into 16 voting areas, called constituencies. Each voting area chooses 6 MS's.



You can read more about changes to the Senedd elections here: [How the voting works](#)



An MS's job is to represent the people from their voting area.

MS's meet in Cardiff Bay, they:



- Debate and vote on laws.



- Set some Welsh taxes.



- Check the work of the Welsh Government.



MS's can talk about local issues in the Senedd.



Sometimes they suggest their own new laws.



They meet in the Siambr – or chamber.



Debates are controlled by the Llywyd – or the presiding officer.



MS's choose the Llywyd through a vote.



The Llywyd is an MS – their job is to manage debates.



You can contact your MS and ask them to take issues to Senedd.



You can find out how to contact your MS here:
senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-senedd



In your area, MS's can try to help you with any problems you are facing. For example, with GP or hospital services, schools or housing.



MS's also take part in local events.



They try to get the Welsh Government to make changes that would help their local area.

The difference between the Senedd and Welsh Government



The Senedd is made up of MS's chosen by you in Senedd elections.



MS's come from different **political parties**.



A **political party** is a group of people that share the same ideas about how to run the country.



Some do not belong to any political party – they are called **Independent Members**.



Different political parties and MS's have to work together to form Welsh Government.



MS's vote for the leader of Welsh Government. The leader of Welsh Government is called the **First Minister**.



The First Minister can choose 12 ministers to oversee things like health, transport and education.



The Welsh Government is in charge of Welsh public services and money.



The Senedd checks the work of Welsh Government.



You can find out more about the difference between the Senedd and Welsh Government here: [What does the Senedd do.](#)