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What does the Senedd do?

March 2026

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About this document



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



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

Website: vote.wales

Email: emb@dbcc.gov.wales

Phone: 02920464819



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What does the Senedd do?



The Senedd is the Welsh Parliament. **It is different to Welsh Government.**



The Senedd is made up of the people you vote for in Senedd Elections.



The next Senedd election is in May 2026.



The candidates or party with the biggest share of the votes become Members of the Senedd.



They are called MS's for short.



MS's represent the people in their voting area. They act as the link between you and Welsh Government.



An important role of the Senedd is checking the work of Welsh Government.



MS's ask ministers questions, debate Welsh Government policies and laws and check work in detail.



They talk about the issues you are facing, and make sure your voice is heard when decisions are made.



They make sure policies and laws are as good as they can be.



They make sure Welsh Government spends our money in the rights ways.

Welsh Government



The leader of the political party who gets the most votes in an election, usually leads Welsh Government.



The leader of Welsh Government is called the First Minister.



The First Minister chooses a team of secretaries and ministers to make up Welsh Government.



Welsh Government runs public services in Wales and suggests new laws.

What powers does the Senedd have?



The Senedd makes laws and policies for Wales about things like:

- Health services.
- Social services and social care.
- Schools and colleges and what is taught.
- Public transport in Wales.
- Roads and speed limits.
- Housing.
- Farming and good standards.
- The environment and protecting our planet.
- The Welsh language.
- Sport and culture – like arts, museums and libraries.



There are some things the Senedd does not have power over. This is because they are controlled by UK Government.



For example, the Senedd cannot make laws or policies about:

- **Foreign affairs** – like buying and selling goods from other countries and dealing with issues like war and security.
- **Defence** – like making decisions about where our armed forces go and what they do.
- **Immigration** – rules about who can come to the country to stay, work or live.
- **Employment law** – rules about things like pay, maternity leave, and contracts.

Money and taxes



Most of the tax we pay goes to the UK Government.



UK Government then decides how much money to give the Welsh Government.



Welsh Government plans how to spend this money on services like health and education.



The Senedd checks Welsh Government's plans for how they spend our money every year.



Welsh Government also raises some money through Welsh taxes.



Welsh Government decide which taxes we should have and how much they should be.



The Senedd checks their ideas for taxes and can agree to them or not.