

DECC Welsh Language Scheme consultation

Summary of responses

March 2012

DECC Welsh Language Scheme Consultation: Summary of Responses

Introduction

DECC's Welsh Language scheme - prepared in accordance with the Welsh Language Board's guidelines - describes how the Department will take forward the principle established by the Welsh Language Act that, in the conduct of public business in Wales, the Welsh and English languages should be treated on a basis of equality, so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable.

DECC launched an eight-week consultation on 28th March 2011 to 23 May 2011 to seek views on its proposed scheme. The consultation sought views on whether the proposed scheme was easy to understand, would meet the needs of Welsh speaking people and asked for comments on the Scheme.

The consultation period closed on 23 May 2011 and this report summarises the responses, including how the consultation process influenced the further development of the policy consulted upon.

Conducting the consultation exercise

The consultation exercise was launched with a press release and a dedicated web page set up on the DECC website. It was also promoted via a Stakeholder Bulletin. Organisations and members of the public were invited to read DECC's draft scheme and contribute their feedback via email and/or post.

When the consultation closed on 23rd May 2011, DECC had received two responses from one individual.

Summary of responses and Government responses to these

All comments received have been considered. The following table outlines the points raised by the consultation as well as the Department's response to each one:

Point Raised	DECC's Response
<p>Inclusion of a reference to the Aarhus Convention.</p>	<p>The Aarhus convention is one of several pieces of legislation that imposes obligations in relation to informing and consulting the public on projects that may have environmental impacts.</p> <p>Listing some or all of those pieces of legislation in the DECC scheme would not, in our view, add to the clarity of the scheme. The DECC scheme sets out our policy on access to information in Welsh, which would include environmental information covered by the Aarhus convention.</p>
<p>Ensuring that publications in Welsh are published at the same time as English ones</p>	<p>The DECC scheme does state that “where we produce material for the public bilingually, the Welsh and English versions will usually be published and distributed together and will be comparable.” See point 33.</p>
<p>That any document or publication relevant to the people of Wales should be published in full.</p>	<p>We consider that the DECC scheme provides for what is appropriate and reasonably practicable in the circumstances. This will enable a proportionate approach including as regards the relevance of the document or publication and the costs and time involved.</p>

Next steps

To implement the action plan set out in Appendix A to the DECC Scheme.

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