



Y Weinyddiaeth
Gyflawnder

Ministry
of Justice

Ministry of Justice Welsh Language Scheme

2024-25 Annual Monitoring Report to the Welsh Language Commissioner

December 2025

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Introduction

This report covers the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and is a self-assessment of how the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has continued to deliver its commitments under its Welsh Language Scheme (the MoJ Scheme) during this period.

The MoJ Scheme sets out how the MoJ gives effect to the principle in Section 5 of the Welsh Language Act 1993 that, in the conduct of public business and the administration of justice in Wales, the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality. It enables everyone who receives a service from the MoJ in Wales, or who communicates with us, to do so through the medium of English or Welsh, according to their personal choice.

The MoJ Scheme is a corporate scheme that covers policy development, recruitment, and delivery of services to the public within its corporate headquarters.

The MoJ has five Executive Agencies (EAs) responsible for the delivery of the majority of its services to the public. Each of its EAs has its own Welsh Language Scheme (WLS) that achieves either an equal or greater provision of Welsh language services compared to the MoJ Scheme. Since each EA also reports annually to the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC), the detail of this information is not repeated here unless it is of relevance to corporate MoJ Scheme reporting.

Summary of achievements

Achievements for 2024-25 include:

- MoJ consultations are available in Welsh from the MoJ Consultation Hub on our 'corporate' GOV.UK pages and from the 'mainstream' pages of GOV.UK.
- We advertised 284 staff recruitment campaigns where the Welsh Language Scheme is highlighted and in which the language requirements state that the ability to use the Welsh language is desirable or essential.
- Judicial College delivered 131 training events in Wales to 1,086 magistrates, including 50 inductions for 379 newly appointed magistrates.
- The Welsh language speaking capability of MoJ staff on the Single Operating Platform (SOP) internal staff data collection system continues to be recorded.
- HMCTS recorded 286 cases in the reporting year where Welsh was used.
- The Advisory Committees for the Magistracy have continued to encourage applications from Welsh speakers particularly across North and West Wales.
- The Witness Intermediary Scheme continued to provide Welsh speaking Registered Intermediaries on request.

- We have maintained our Welsh language landing page website which can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice.cy>
- The MoJ Welsh Language Co-ordinators Group, which meets biannually, has continued to operate and covers the full breadth of MoJ's business areas.
- We supported the Welsh Government funded 'Work Welsh programme' which offers Welsh language courses for staff.
- In support of our Welsh Impact Test for policy officials, the HMCTS Welsh Language Unit and thebigword translated 69 corporate policy documents.

Progress on the Action Plan

An update on our progress in delivering our ongoing Welsh Language Scheme actions is set out below to help demonstrate compliance.

1. Policy development and Implementation

Success criteria:

- a) *Improvements in staff awareness; with WLS requirements considered in the policy making and procurement process.*
- b) *Policy, analyst, and legal staff consistently consider Welsh language implications in policy development and consultations.*

MoJ consultations

During the 2024-25 reporting period the MoJ conducted a number of consultations in Welsh and published responses in Welsh as follows:

Reform of Local Justice Areas

The joint MoJ / Judicial Office consultation was translated in full (March 2025) on the mainstream GOV.UK site and corporate MoJ consultation hub.

Oversight and regulation of private prosecutors in the criminal justice system

The consultation was translated in full (March 2025) on the mainstream GOV.UK site.

Civil legal aid: towards a sustainable future

The consultation was translated in full (January 2025) on the mainstream GOV.UK site.

Independent Sentencing Review 2024 to 2025

An executive summary and question set for this Call for Evidence was translated (November 2024) on the mainstream GOV.UK site.

Access to Justice in relation to the Aarhus Convention

An executive summary of this Call for Evidence was translated (September 2024) on the mainstream GOV.UK site and MoJ consultation hub.

Limitation law in child sexual abuse cases

The MoJ consultation was translated in full (May 2024) on the mainstream GOV.UK site and corporate MoJ consultation hub. An executive summary of the consultation response (February 2025) was translated on the mainstream GOV.UK site.

Welsh Language speakers

We have continued to capture the capability of MoJ staff on the SOP system which holds staff data through a voluntary question asking whether staff can speak either basic or fluent Welsh. This has helped MoJ to maintain an evidence base for Welsh speaking staff and contributes to the Welsh Government's target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The MoJ continues to support the Welsh Government's [Work Welsh \(WW\) programme](#) aimed at improving the Welsh language skills of our staff in Wales. We continue to recognise the importance of encouraging all staff in both operational and corporate roles to consider Welsh language training.

MoJ continues to actively promote the Civil Service Welsh Network, part of the Civil Service Languages Network. It is designed for civil servants who can speak Welsh or are keen to learn and are interested in intercultural dialogue. The Network also provides support on special projects in government requiring solid language skills and intercultural knowledge. For more information, contact cslocalcymruwales@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

2. Recruitment

Success criteria:

- a) *An effective system exists to monitor MoJ's recruitment of staff and appointment of judiciary to ensure that it meets its commitments made in the Welsh Language Scheme.*
- b) *Court proceedings are held in Welsh where required.*
- c) *Consistent approach to the Welsh language in the recruitment of magistrates and judges.*
- d) *New recruitment system complies with Welsh Language Commissioner's requirements and legislation.*

Staff

Success criteria:

- a) *An effective system exists to monitor MoJ's recruitment of staff and appointment of judges to ensure that it meets its commitments made in the Welsh Language Scheme.*
- d) *New recruitment system complies with the Welsh Language Commissioner's requirements and legislation.*

During the reporting year, we have advertised six campaigns where Welsh was essential and 278 campaigns where the language requirements state that Welsh language is desirable. As of 1 April 2025, 337 formal offers have been accepted within these campaigns where the Welsh language is desirable or essential. Of these 337 formal offers, 51 were Welsh speakers.

Of the 51 Welsh speakers, 4 candidates accepted a formal offer from a campaign where Welsh language was essential, and 47 accepted a formal offer to a campaign where Welsh language was desirable.

Court proceedings

Success criterion:

- b) *Court proceedings are held in Welsh effectively where required.*

The effective identification and subsequent recruitment of Welsh-speaking judges and magistrates enables court proceedings to take place in Welsh when required. During the reporting year HMCTS recorded 286 cases where Welsh was used.

The total is broken down as follows:

Court cases involving Welsh language	Figures
Magistrates Court (non-appearance)	19
Magistrates Court (appearances)	77
Civil Court	154
Tribunals	10
Crown Court	24
Court of Protection	2

The judiciary

Success criterion:

c) Consistent approach to the Welsh language in the recruitment of magistrates and judges.

The following selection exercises identified vacancies in Wales that had an essential Welsh language requirement in addition to testing the candidates' understanding of the administration of justice in Wales:

- **Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal and Fee-paid Judge of the Employment Tribunals (England and Wales) (00117).** This joint exercise launched on 21 March 2023. The majority of these recommendations were included in the 2023-24 report. However, following a further request, two additional candidates were recommended to two Welsh language posts for the Fee-paid Judge of the Employment Tribunal (England and Wales). This meant that a total of 52 candidates were recommended to the role of Fee-paid Judge of the Employment Tribunal (England and Wales).

The following selection exercises identified vacancies in Wales that did not have a Welsh language requirement but tested candidates' understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. Please note that deployment decisions rest with the judiciary:

- **Recorder (00162).** The national exercise for Recorder launched on 15 June 2023 with 100 vacancies. Those candidates who were interested in a Welsh post were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. A total of 100 candidates were recommended, with eight candidates recommended as suitable for appointment to posts in Wales.

- **Circuit Judge (00171).** The national exercise launched on 18 July 2023 with 52 vacancies across England and Wales. Those candidates who were interested in a Welsh post were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. A total of 42 candidates were recommended, with one candidate recommended as suitable for posts in Wales.
- **District Judge (00172).** The national exercise launched on 07 September 2023 with 100 vacancies across England and Wales. Those candidates who were interested in a post in Wales were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. A total of 51 candidates were recommended, with three candidates recommended as suitable for posts in Wales.
- **Deputy District Judge (00184).** The national exercise for Deputy District Judge launched on 19 March 2024 with 125 immediate vacancies across England and Wales and an additional request for 30 potential future vacancies. Those candidates who were interested in a Welsh post were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. A total of 123 candidates were recommended, with five candidates recommended as suitable for appointment to posts in Wales, in this reporting period. Additional candidates to fulfil the remaining two positions will be included in the next reporting year.
- **District Judge (Magistrate Courts) (00185).** The national exercise launched on 19 March 2024 with 30 vacancies across England and Wales. Those candidates who were interested in a Welsh post were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. A total of 25 candidates were recommended with two candidates recommended as suitable for posts in Wales
- **Resident Judge of the First-tier Tribunal, Immigration and Asylum Chamber (00215).** This exercise for Resident Judge of the First-tier Tribunal launched on 26 September 2024 with four vacancies, one of which was based in Wales. Those candidates who were interested in the Welsh post were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. Three candidates were recommended, including the one Welsh post with a candidate who was found to be suitable for a post in Wales.
- **Deputy Chairperson for the Agricultural Land Tribunal for Wales (00221).** This exercise launched on 22 May 2024 with four vacancies, all in Wales. All candidates were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. Three candidates were recommended as suitable for appointment to these posts.

The following selection exercises identified vacancies in Wales that did not have Welsh language requirements, and did not test candidates' knowledge of the administration of justice in Wales:

- **Fee-paid Financially Qualified Members of the First-tier Tribunal, Social Entitlement Chamber (00209).** The national exercise launched on 9 July 2024 for 18 vacancies across all regions, two of which were based in the South West and Wales region. A total of 10 candidates were recommended, but no candidates were recommended for the two positions in the South West and Wales region.

Section 83 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 allows the Welsh Government to seek assistance from other public bodies. The JAC assisted the Welsh Government with the following exercise:

- **President of the Welsh Language Tribunal (00193) –** The exercise launched on 13 March 2024 with one vacancy in Wales. Welsh language was an essential requirement for one post in the selection exercise for President of the Welsh Language tribunal. All

candidates were assessed on their language ability and understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. One candidate was recommended as suitable for appointment to this post.

- **President of Residential Property Tribunal Wales (00224).** This exercise launched on 16 May 2024 with one vacancy in Wales. All candidates were assessed on their understanding of the administration of justice in Wales. A total of one candidate was recommended as suitable for appointment to this post.
- **Professional Members of the Residential Property Tribunal for Wales (00226).** This exercise launched on 26 September 2024 with 10 vacancies, all located in Wales. The requirement to assess candidates' understanding of the administration of justice in Wales was waived for this exercise. A total of three candidates were recommended for these posts.

N.B. Although selection exercises typically started prior to the reporting year, the outcome of the exercises were reported to Judicial Office during the reporting year. This mirrors the approach followed in the JAC Annual Report.

Judicial College

Statutory responsibility for the training of the judiciary rests with the Lady Chief Justice, Senior President of Tribunals and Chief Coroner to preserve judicial independence. These responsibilities are exercised through the Judicial College.

The [Judicial College strategy 2021-25](#) sets its overall ambition and objectives over this four-year period. The strategy includes commitments to continue to support Welsh language training for the judiciary and to meet training needs in law specific to Wales effectively as they arise. These commitments are overseen by the Wales Training Committee of the Judicial College, chaired by Mr Justice Griffiths, who is also a member of the Judicial College Board. The Wales Training Committee reports directly to the Judicial College Board, which sets the College's strategic direction, oversees delivery of the full training programme and has overarching responsibility for the College's work on behalf of the Lady Chief Justice, Senior President of Tribunals and Chief Coroner.

2024/25 was the first full training year in which the College had responsibility for the delivery of all magistrates training, having taken on additional responsibilities from HMCTS. The College delivered 131 training events in Wales to 1,086 magistrates over the year. This included 50 inductions for 379 newly appointed magistrates.

A Judicial College Welsh language seminar took place on 5 March 2025 in Llandudno attended by 50 magistrates. It covered sessions on the legal status of the Welsh language in courts, identifying and overcoming barriers to speaking Welsh, proactively providing services in Welsh (the “active offer”) and Welsh language support and resources. The course exceeded the benchmarks of 90% positive feedback for aims and outcomes being met and the course being useful to the judicial role.

The Judicial College has doubled the frequency of Welsh language seminars for the judiciary in Wales from biennial to annual. The current seminar, as delivered in 2024/25, is aimed at the full range of Welsh speakers holding judicial office, including those with some Welsh language skills and those able to conduct a hearing in Welsh. The additional seminar will focus on the learning needs of advanced Welsh speakers with the ability to conduct hearings in Welsh, in order to strengthen compliance with statutory responsibilities in relation to the Welsh language.

The College hosts a Wales library on its online learning platform. The library brings together digital training materials and guidance for judicial office holders sitting in Wales, including information about the Welsh language in the justice system.

Developments in 2024/25 include the addition of new resources to support the right to speak Welsh in court and tribunal proceedings.

The College is responsible for the Equal Treatment Bench Book (ETBB), which exists to help judicial office holders facilitate a court or tribunal process that is respectful of people's different circumstances and requirements. The ETBB (updated in July 2024) provides guidance about the Welsh language, including in relation to the right to speak Welsh and the use of the unique specialist simultaneous interpreters, or cyfieithwyr ar y pryd. The ETBB also emphasises the importance of respecting Welsh personal and place names.

Advisory Committees and appointments to the Magistracy

A central theme of the Lord Chancellor's Recruitment Advisory Committee for both North Wales and South Wales is ensuring the Magistracy is reflective of the communities at large in Wales. In order to achieve this both the North Wales and South Wales Advisory Recruitment Committees seek to recruit from a diverse background. One of the key themes is ensuring that Welsh speakers are represented within the Judiciary in Wales.

Welsh is used in courts throughout Wales but the use of Welsh is most prevalent in areas in which Welsh is spoken by the highest percentage of the population (such as North West Wales). However, it should be borne in mind that the areas with the highest proportion of Welsh speakers (such as North West Wales, and West Wales) are also areas with relatively low levels of total population. By contrast, areas (such as South East Wales) with a lower proportion of Welsh speakers are those with the highest levels of total population (including Cardiff and the former industrial areas of South East Wales). Therefore, although the proportion of Welsh speakers is lower in South East Wales, the number of Welsh speakers is still significant. In North East Wales, the proportion of Welsh speakers is relatively low, and the population density is also relatively low. It has been noted over recent years that there has been a reduction in successful applications to be magistrates from Welsh speakers.

During this period the number of applications to join the magistracy has remained constant, so there is not within Wales a shortage of magistrates. This reduction in successful applications from Welsh speaking Magistrates has impacted on the overall percentage of Welsh speaking magistrates. The figure across Wales shows small reductions over this period in comparison to the previous 18 months in three of the Local Justice Areas (LJA) - Carmarthenshire, North East Wales and Gwent. In other LJAs the percentage of Welsh speakers has remained constant, for example Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire and Montgomeryshire. Three of the LJAs Cardiff, Mid Wales and West Glamorgan have seen slight increases over the last 18 months of Welsh speaking magistrates with the most substantial increase being in West Glamorgan.

Work continues to increase the number of Welsh speaking Presiding Justices in all Jurisdictions. Both the North Wales and South Wales Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committees have continued to encourage applications from Welsh speakers, particularly across North and West Wales. To support this the committee has been working with the Judicial office in the development of marketing material including handouts and posters. The advisory is involved in the ongoing work of the online application process which is available in Welsh.

https://magistrates.judiciary.uk/cymraeg/?sType=magistrates_website

Both the North Wales and South Wales Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committees have worked in partnership with the Standing Committee on the Welsh Language (SCOWL) to highlight the challenge of encouraging more applications from Welsh speaking Magistrates.

During recruitment campaigns, the Welsh Language Unit has continued to support the North Wales and South Wales Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committees by use of their x/Twitter account that were re posted by other individuals/groups. The magistracy continues to be represented at events such as the Eisteddfod.

There has been an increase in the number of Welsh applications, which has translated into a slight increase in the number of candidates recommended for appointment. During 24-25 a total of 6 Welsh speaking Magistrates were recruited (4 crime and 2 family) against a figure in February 2024 of 4 Magistrates (2 crime and 2 family).

The North Wales and South Wales Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee launched a campaign in September 2025 for Adult Magistrates and will launch two further campaigns in March 2026 and October 2026 for Adult Magistrates with an aim of increasing the number of applicants from Welsh speakers. Similarly, a Family campaign will run in March 2026.

The role of the Welsh Language and the Statutory framework have been highlighted as part of the feedback on the consultation on changes to Local Justice Areas.

<u>Local Justice Area</u>	<u>Percentage of Welsh speaking magistrates in March 2025</u>
Montgomery	8%
Ceredigion & Pembrokeshire	19%
Carmarthenshire	34%
Central N Wales	16%
North West Wales	55%
North East Wales	6%
Cardiff	4%
Mid Wales	6%
Gwent	2%
West Glamorgan	9%

Registered Intermediaries

Throughout the reporting year (2024/25), the Witness Intermediary Scheme (WIS) continued to supply Welsh-speaking Registered Intermediaries (RIs). For a sixth consecutive year, the Scheme sustained a record volume of requests, with RIs assisting almost 10,000 cases in England and Wales, of which 721 were within the four police force areas (PFAs) in Wales. 696 (97%) of these requests were successfully matched, 13 requests were not matched and 12 were cancelled. We successfully matched 4 specific requests for Welsh-speaking RIs.

Welsh-speaking RIs continue to operate across every Welsh PFA. There are currently 4 Welsh speaking RIs, and a further 51 RIs that accept cases in PFAs in Wales. Demand for RIs in Wales is routinely monitored and the MoJ has taken action to ensure specific requests for Welsh-speaking RIs are recorded and that data on Welsh-speaking RI usage is available on request.

The MoJ's WIS recruitment strategy continues to target regions where analysis shows that RIs are most needed. Welsh language skills are taken into consideration, and we are committed to ensuring that the needs of Welsh-speaking victims and witnesses are met.

3. Provision of services to the public

Success criteria:

- a) *No complaints from customers in Wales that clarity was lacking regarding the handling of Welsh correspondence.*
- b) *Documents translated into Welsh appropriately.*
- c) *Welsh correspondence is responded to in Welsh within the same timescales as other correspondence.*

Correspondence

MoJ welcomes correspondence in either Welsh or English. When someone writes to us in Welsh, we will reply in Welsh within the same timescales as English.

During the reporting period 2024-2025, the MoJ's Ministerial Correspondence and Support Team did not receive any correspondence in Welsh, either online or in hard copy. Officials continue to monitor levels of Welsh correspondence received by the Ministerial Correspondence and Support Team and staff have been reminded to record any correspondence received in Welsh on the database. This includes hard copy correspondence sent by post or electronic correspondence by email.

Correspondence staff across the MoJ have also been reminded that any correspondence received in Welsh should be replied to in Welsh.

Telephone calls

Success criterion:

- d) *Welsh speakers will have calls answered in Welsh at first contact.*

The MoJ Public Enquiry Line (PEL) is part of the Customer Experience Hub of SSCL based in South Wales that handles calls from the general public or external stakeholders wishing to contact the department or access other services such as those provided by HMCTS, Coroner's Unit and the Press Office.

Whilst we do not advertise any language options to callers, should someone call and wish to speak only in Welsh, the PEL can accommodate the request as the wider Shared Services call centre team has 20 fluent Welsh speakers.

During the period of this report there has not been a caller who has tried to communicate with the MoJ in Welsh. Also, during this period the MoJ did not receive any complaints about the lack of a more formal Welsh language option.

Events

Success criterion:

e) *No complaints received about failure to facilitate the use of Welsh or provisions of Welsh translations at events in Wales.*

There is guidance on the MoJ intranet to help staff identify translation needs and facilities for meetings and events with the public in Wales. Whilst MoJ does not hold central records of events held across its business regarding meetings in Wales where specific arrangements were made to facilitate the use of the Welsh language, we have not received any complaints for failure to facilitate meetings in Welsh.

Corporate identity

Success criterion:

f) *Consistency in the way the Welsh language is used.*

During the period of this report, the MoJ's Corporate Communications Team has been operating in its business-as-usual capacity for Welsh language activities. MoJ business areas that require Welsh translation are directed to the HMCTS Welsh Language Unit or [thebigword](#) by the MoJ's central design team – design102. The MoJ brand guidelines provide advice on using the Welsh and bilingual versions of the MoJ logo.

Publications and forms

Success criteria:

- a) *Consistency in the way in which the Welsh language is used.*
- b) *All documents produced in both Welsh and English versions are produced to the same standard and to the same timescale where deadlines permit.*

MoJ has adopted the principle that when conducting public business in Wales, it will treat English and Welsh languages on the basis of equality. When publishing materials, our design team adheres to an operating process and works closely with the HMCTS Welsh Language Unit, enabling simultaneous formatting and publication of documents both in English and Welsh and to the same standard.

Due to the late sign-off and frequent last-minute changes and iterations of some English documents, it is not always possible to produce both Welsh and English versions simultaneously. In such cases the Welsh version is published as quickly as possible thereafter (within 10 working days under our Welsh Language Scheme). All documents produced in both Welsh and English are produced to the same standard.

HMCTS Welsh Language Unit

The HMCTS Welsh Language Unit (WLU) undertakes the majority of our corporate translations. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 the WLU and [thebigword](#) translated 69 corporate documents for MoJ HQ at a cost of £25,468.37.

Press notices, publicity campaigns and advertising, official and public notices

Success criterion:

- a) *Consistency in the way in which the Welsh language is used.*

[HMPPS in Wales / HMPPS yng Nghymru \(@HMPPSCymru\) / X](#) is the official channel of HMPPS in Wales with much Welsh language content.

HMCTS is responsible for much of the MoJ content on GOV.UK. [Gwasanaeth Llysoedd a Thribiwnlysoedd EF - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) HMCTS translates everything that is relevant to Wales or the Welsh language, for example news, blogs and guidance or publications where there is a user need.

Digital services, website and information

Success criteria:

- a) *Reduced complaints regarding lack of Welsh content for relevant corporate documents.*
- b) *Availability of appropriate Welsh content for our policies and publications.*
- c) *MoJ's IT systems include Welsh language capability.*
- d) *Prepare a Welsh language version of our GOV.UK homepage.*

The MoJ is responsible for deciding which 'departmental and policy' content on GOV.UK needs translating, arranging high-quality translation, and keeping the Welsh content accurate and up to date.

MoJ's Welsh landing page for our website can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice-cy>. We have continued to keep all the Welsh content, including on our associated corporate pages, accurate and up to date.

In order to make Welsh publications more accessible and easier to find, the Welsh version has its own page, rather than adding a Welsh document to an English page of content.

We also have Welsh language branding on stationery, reports, logos, and electronic communications to be used as required.

MoJ Technology takes the following position on the use of the Welsh language:

- as we develop and deliver new IT systems and products or update old ones, we will assess the linguistic requirements in respect of services provided to the public in Wales;
- we will promote and facilitate the use of Welsh as far as it is appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practical;
- when we develop or procure MoJ Digital and Technology systems we will take into account the Welsh Language Commissioner's Bilingual Software Guidelines and Standards;
- responsibility for the content of IT platforms (as opposed to the associated technology) belongs to the relevant business area.

These principles are applied whenever the MoJ transitions to new contracts. MoJ Digital and Technology is always willing to consider any specific requirements of the Welsh Language Unit.

Services delivered on behalf of the MoJ by other parties

Success criterion:

Staff are aware regarding arrangements to include Welsh language considerations in third party contract agreements.

MoJ current standard contract terms and conditions include clauses which require suppliers to comply with the Welsh Language Act 1993 and the Welsh Language Scheme 'as if they were the Authority'. Some examples are:

Approved Enforcement Agency Services

(This contract is broken into several lots. Lot 7 refers to Wales and Lot 8 includes a secondary provider to Lot 7.) The services support HMCTS' compliance and enforcement operations that ensure financial penalties, as well as other non-custodial penalties and custodial actions, are collected and performed. The contract supports provision of consistent and efficient enforcement processes across England and Wales. The Authority requires the supplier to ensure that the service is accessible to, and understandable by, defendants whose language of choice is Welsh.

Prison Retail Services

As part of the agreement with the supplier, order forms are to be provided in Welsh as part of contracted services where requested.

MoJ Digital Service Desk

Both written and verbal communications are provided in Welsh and English, according to the preference of the user.

Debt Collection and Enforcement Services

The service covers all Crown Courts in England and Wales. The supplier is responsible for promoting the delivery of debt collection and enforcement services in Welsh where required. The Authority requires the supplier to ensure that the services are accessible to, and understandable by, defendants whose language of choice is Welsh. Compliance is monitored through contract management meetings supported by data on the uptake of the scheme.

Court Reporting and Transcription Services

The transcription of hearings in courts or tribunals includes online, attendance based, and real time hearings. The provision of Welsh language services is part of the contract. Should a person ask to have their trial in Welsh, the transcription will be done in Welsh at the same cost as English.

Family Services (HMPPS Cardiff)

The supplier (G4S) provides a culturally diverse range of provisions, such as reading materials in different languages. Information will be provided in Welsh, English, and additional languages on request (e.g. if there is an identified demographic need within the population) to enable equality of access. The Senior Manager (Operational) for G4S is a first language Welsh speaker and has responsibility for staff for the three Welsh prison establishments (Cardiff, Usk and Prescoed).

Languages Services Spoken (Lot 1)

The contract is with one supplier, thebigword. The purpose of the contract is to allow MoJ authorities to request language professionals to attend bookings and interpret/ translate. The Welsh language is one of the languages provided under this contract and has been included since the start of the sourcing activity.

Allocation of grants

Success criterion:

Grants are awarded in accordance with the commitments made in the Scheme

Any organisation which applies for a grant for activities which involves the delivery of services to people in Wales will be expected to address in its application, where appropriate, how it intends to provide those services in Welsh as well as English. This will then be incorporated as one of the funding conditions.

To ensure that we have robust governance arrangements and grant expenditure delivers value for money, MoJ has established a challenge function, the Grants Challenge and Assurance Panel. The Panel is an integral part of grants governance and financial decision making and has been adopted by the Cabinet Office as best practice.

Grant teams oversee the process of allocating grants in their respective areas, including the overall sum on offer and aligning the grants to MoJ's strategic priorities. Competitions are advertised on the government's Find a Grant service and run via the Jaggaer e-tendering portal, which can be accessed by any supplier who is registered. To help inform prospective bidders, the description document that accompanies each advertisement outlines whether and when Welsh Language Act considerations apply. When awarded, and if appropriate, the grant recipient will be made aware of MoJ requirements with which they are expected to comply, including where the respective MoJ or HMPPS Welsh Language Scheme gives effect to applicable Welsh Language Act requirements.

HMPPS grants are used to support the continuation of strategic grants, probation services and innovation grants that contribute to HMPPS' broad aims and specific priorities. The HMPPS grants were advertised to all Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England and Wales. Those awarded in Wales totalled £3.1m.

For 2024-2025, the Victim and Witness Commissioning and Implementation Unit awarded grants totalling £8.6m to recipients in Wales, to deliver support services for victims of crime.

For 2024-2025 The Women's Community Sector awarded grants to the value of £347,872 to organisations in Wales.

NB. Last year's report stated 'for 2023-2024 The Women's Community Sector awarded grants to the value of £755,605.59 to three organisations in Wales for core costs', this was an error as £755,605.59 was the total award to the three organisations for the period 2022 to 2025. The total award to the three organisations in Wales for 2023-2024 was £347,872. The three organisations were awarded the same amount for 2024-2025.

4. Implementing, monitoring and reporting

Success criteria:

- a) *Policies, initiatives, and services are consistent with commitments made in the WLS*
- b) *MoJ's Welsh Coordinators Group widened and meets biannually at least with virtual interaction from members.*
- c) *Arrangements in place to monitor and report on the progress by MoJ bodies, listed in Annex A, regarding their applications of the MoJ WLS.*
- d) *Staff have arrangements in place to monitor service providers compliance with Welsh Language arrangements contained in contract agreements.*

The MoJ's Welsh Language Scheme Coordinator continued to have responsibility for the development and operation of the MoJ Scheme. A key aspect of the role is to ensure that the MoJ Scheme is developed, reviewed and applied appropriately by the various MoJ corporate business areas. This includes the provision of advice and guidance and responding to requests for information or clarification relating to the MoJ's policy and practice in relation to the Welsh language. The MoJ Scheme Coordinator did not receive any formal complaints regarding the operation of the MoJ Scheme during the reporting period.

The MoJ continues to operate a widened Welsh Language Coordinators Group of contacts who act as Welsh Language Coordinators across its key business areas. The Group meets in a hybrid manner twice a year.

The remit of the group is to:

- focus on emerging issues relating to delivery of the MoJ's Welsh Language Scheme;
- share examples of best practice to help raise awareness and replicate ideas;
- provide a forum for members to discuss and resolve emerging Welsh language issues; and
- offer mutual support for the MoJ's Welsh Language Coordinators and help inform the future direction of Welsh language policy and governance across our Executive Agencies.

Members use the Group to share information and ideas to improve decision making. Where there are concerns or misunderstandings about Welsh language policy and practice, the Coordinators will pursue these for members and relevant staff in a proportionate manner to ensure satisfactory resolution.

At the September 2024 meeting, we discussed the updated MoJ Welsh Impact Test, HMCTS digital developments and welcomed a guest speaker from the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office (WLCO) who updated us on the latest WLCO Assurance Report.

At the March 2025 meeting, we discussed coroners' policy, the MoJ Welsh language contract and Registered Intermediaries.

The Group also operates as an *ad hoc* virtual discussion forum on Welsh language issues between meetings to share advice between relevant MoJ colleagues, especially on when translation services may be required.



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