

CFA20 Individual 08

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol |
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Cymraeg i bawb? | Cymraeg for all?

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn 08 | Evidence from: Individual 08

1. What are the main barriers that prevent wider use of the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers, and what might help to change this?

The negative attitude. When I thank a shop owner in Welsh, too often I am confronted with a confused face in return. I feel that more Welsh is needed in public spaces, as well as on English television programming, in order to gain more recognition and acceptance among those who are not Welsh speakers, especially the English. But staff within Welsh second language departments at schools also require more support in order to change negative attitudes from the outset.

2. What sort of spaces and opportunities might encourage greater use of, and increase confidence in, the use of the language in areas where day-to-day use of the language is limited?

Again, the acceptance of those who do not speak Welsh.

3. Can you share examples of successful initiatives or activities that have encouraged Welsh language use in areas where use of the language is limited?

The Pontypridd Eisteddfod made a very big difference for a period of time. However, things in the locality have now largely defaulted to the pre-Eisteddfod standards, in my view.

4. How could technology and digital tools help to increase the use of the Welsh language, especially among those who use the language infrequently or who lack confidence?

Welsh language options for computer programmes such as Microsoft, and so forth. As a person who works through the medium of Welsh, I have Welsh language programmes on my work laptop, but I do not have them on my personal laptop.

5. What impact, in your view, do cultural events such as national Eisteddfodau or Welsh language festivals have on Welsh language use, particularly in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

They are very good for a short period of time after the event, but they are not enough, in my opinion, to make a long-term difference.

6. How might these events (whether large or small in size) be adapted or improved to better serve communities with fewer Welsh speakers?

Funding allocated to supporting the language!

7. Are there any other matters you would like to draw to the Committee's attention about the Welsh Government's approach to supporting the Welsh language in areas with fewer Welsh speakers?

More support for English-medium schools – more funding for learners, more staff in order to enhance departments. I used to teach half a secondary school in a department of two – what does that reflect, when we are trying to do our level best to increase the use of the language and to elevate its importance?
