

The European Union (EU): Through the UK's membership of the European Union, Wales is also subject to decisions about legislation and policy made in Brussels which is applicable to all 27 member states. *There are 4 Members of the European Parliament (MEP).*

Local authorities in Wales: Local authorities provide statutory services as set out in legislation and are empowered by laws made at the UK and Welsh levels to provide other services. They provide some of these services directly, work in partnership with other organisations, and commission others to provide services on their behalf. The list below provides a non-exhaustive overview of their general powers and responsibilities:

- Civil registration services (births, deaths and marriages);
- Coroners;
- Cremation and burials;
- Economic development and regeneration (including powers to provide grants and support businesses);
- Education (including the provision of nursery, primary, secondary, full-time 16-19 year old education and post 19 year old education apart from Higher Education);
- Environment (including public health, animal welfare, noise and light pollution, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, maintenance of grounds and parks and litter etc.);
- Emergency Planning;
- Fire and Rescue services;
- Food Safety;
- Certain Highways (under provisions outlined in the Highways Act 1980);
- Housing;
- Leisure and recreation;
- Libraries;
- Licensing (including responsibility for alcohol licensing, taxis, public entertainment and gambling);
- National Parks;
- Planning;
- Social Services;
- Strategic Planning;
- Transport;
- Trading Standards;
- Waste.

There are 22 local authorities (1,264 councillors) and 735 community and town councils (8000 community councillors) in Wales. There are also 3 national park authorities, 4 police authorities and 3 fire and rescue authorities.

Diagram setting out respective responsibilities of Welsh Government, National Assembly for Wales and Local authorities in Wales

UK Government and Parliament: UK Parliament and Government still have significant powers in relation to Wales and have considerable influence over Welsh affairs. Examples of areas which have not been devolved to the National Assembly include:

- Policing and criminal justice;
- Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security issues;
- Welfare, Benefits and Social Security;
- Taxation also remains the responsibility of the UK Government and Parliament (apart from powers to set council tax and business rates);
- Responsibility for Fiscal and Macroeconomic Policy and Public Expenditure Allocation across the UK lies with HM Treasury;
- Funding for the devolved administrations is determined within spending reviews, alongside that for UK departments. This takes the form of a grant from the relevant Secretary of State and is voted by the UK Parliament.

There are 40 Members of Parliament for Wales elected to the House of Commons of the United Kingdom.

Welsh Government and National Assembly for Wales: In Wales, powers are vested in the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government. There are 60 Members of the National Assembly for Wales (AMs).

The National Assembly has the right to pass laws (known as Assembly Acts), but only in areas where those powers have been expressly conferred:

- Agriculture, Forestry, Animals, Plants and Rural Development;
- Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings;
- Culture;
- Economic Development;
- Education and Training;
- Environment;
- Fire and Rescue Services and Fire Safety;
- Food;
- Health and Health Services;
- Highways and Transport;
- Housing;
- Local Government;
- National Assembly for Wales;
- Public Administration;
- Social Welfare;
- Sport and Recreation;
- Tourism;
- Town and Country Planning;
- Water and Flood Defence;
- Welsh Language.

These legislative powers mirror the executive responsibilities of the Welsh Ministers who, as members of the Welsh Government, are accountable to the National Assembly for their decisions and actions. There are also a range of Assembly Government Sponsored Bodies (AGSBs) in Wales – non-elected public bodies charged with responsibilities for public services, e.g. the Arts Council for Wales and the Environment Agency.