

EWC response to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee's call for further evidence on the implications of the Census data for the legislative framework that supports Welsh-Medium Education Provision

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further evidence on the implications of the Census data, published in December 2022, for the legislative framework that supports Welsh-Medium Education Provision.

We have not responded to each of the three questions outlined in the request for evidence, rather we have limited our response to matters specific to our remit, but relevant to the questions.

Since giving evidence to the Committee's enquiry (in July 2022), we have published our [Annual Workforce Statistics 2022](#). This shows that the proportion of Welsh speaking schools teachers (33.2%) or those who are able to work through the medium of Welsh (26.6%) continues to be fairly static. Indeed, there has been little variance in these figures over the past 10 years, despite the various strategies that have been employed in recent years to support the growth of Welsh language.

In addition, initial teacher education (ITE) data shows that certain ITE partnerships are, year-on-year, finding it challenging to recruit Welsh medium staff, failing to meet the 30% desired Welsh medium recruitment set by the Welsh Government.

If the decrease in the number of Welsh speakers indicated by the Census data continues, this will only exacerbate the existing recruitment challenges, narrowing the pool of potential Welsh medium teachers (or teaching assistants).

We have previously outlined our role in promoting careers in the education professions, and that one of our priorities is increasing the number of Welsh medium educators. We note from the Census data that the highest number of Welsh speakers is in the 5-15 age range. It is of the utmost importance to ensure that careers in teaching are made sufficiently appealing to individuals from this demographic group, in order to increase the number of Welsh speaking young people entering Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and the pipeline of individuals entering the profession who are able to teach through the medium of Welsh.