

UNITED KINGDOM

SECTION A

Capital

London 7,007,100 (1995 est.)

Area

244,820 sq km (93,341 sq mi)

Form of government

Parliamentary monarchy

GDP—per capita

Purchasing power parity—\$21,800 (1999 est.)

Population

59,113,439 (July 1999 est.)

Ethnic composition

English	81.5%
Scottish	9.6%
Irish	2.4%
Welsh	1.9%
Ulster	1.8%
Other	2.8%

(West Indian, Asian Indians, Pakistani, Chinese, Africans, Bangladeshis, Arabs)

Official language

English (non-statutory)

Minority languages

Along with English, the official State language, there are six minority languages:

- Cornish, the autochthonous language of Cornwall
- Gaelic and Scots, spoken in Scotland
- Welsh, spoken in Wales
- Ulster Scots speakers are found in all parts of the north of Ireland but the main concentrations are in Counties Down, Antrim, North and West Londonderry, North and West Tyrone and spilling across the border into east Donegal in the Republic of Ireland
- Irish, in Northern Ireland

Over 500,000 Welsh speakers (19% of the population), 1991 census

1.5 million Scots speakers (The General Register Office (Scotland) in 1996 estimated)

142,003 people in Northern Ireland claiming knowledge of the Irish language (this includes people who do not claim the ability to speak the language)

67,000 speakers of Gaelic (the 1991 census)

According to estimates, Cornish is spoken fluently by about 200 people, and with varying levels of fluency, by a few thousand more

The census did not include a question on the Ulster-Scots language. From studies that were done in the 1960s it was estimated that there were 168,000 native speakers with 10,000 to 15,000 monolingual speakers and the rest bilingual. It is now estimated that this has declined to 100,000 with 5,000 to 10,000 monolingual speakers. Ulster-Scots survives mainly as a spoken language with very few speakers completely literate in the language. There are very few revivalist speakers.

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

While the United Kingdom has no “official” language, the vast majority of the population speaks and writes in English. The historical development of English in the British Isles is such that it has not been perceived as necessary to make it the official language on a statutory basis. Provisions

have been made to accommodate and support other languages in use in Britain (primarily Welsh). The British Government is encouraging people to learn more about the Gaelic language and culture and has provided financial support covering three main areas; education, Gaelic organizations and television. Gaelic has a special statute under British Law that provides certain measures for preserving the language. For the Welsh language there has existed a language law consolidating its official position in Wales since 1993.

Some measure of legislative recognition is afforded GAELIC in the Crofting legislation (1886), which requires a Gaelic-speaking member of the Crofters' Commission. Likewise in the Small Landowners' Act of 1911, enabling Gaelic to be used in the Scottish Land Court; in the "Gaelic Clause" of the 1918 Education Act; as one of the three defining partial languages in the 1981 Nationality Act; and in the 1990 Broadcasting Act. The Western Isles Council uses Gaelic in some committees. The Highland Council also uses it at its Gaidhlig Committee.

Gaelic is to be an official language in the Scottish Parliament according to the verdict of the Consultative Steering Group on the Scottish Parliament. The group charged with the drawing up of the standing orders for the Parliament. Their 170-page report "Shaping Scotland's Parliament" was released in mid January of 1999.

The main laws and decrees defining and limiting the legal status of WELSH are the Welsh Courts Act 1943, the Welsh Language Act 1967, and the Welsh Language Act 1993. The Welsh Language Act of 1967 made limited provision for the Welsh language to be used in the courts and in public administration. In legal proceedings any person could speak Welsh. The Act also gave Ministers a discretionary power to prescribe Welsh versions of official forms, subject to the provision that in case of any discrepancy the English text would prevail.

During the parliamentary debate on the Welsh Language Bill in 1993, unsuccessful attempts were made to incorporate into it a declaration that Welsh was an official language in Wales. Amendments in both Houses were resisted by the Government who claimed that this was unnecessary as Welsh already was an official language in Wales according to the following House acts; House of Commons Hansard 19.1.93 col 879; House of Commons Hansard 13.7.93 (Prime Minister); House of Commons Hansard 15.7.93. The validity of this assertion has not been contested.

The Welsh Language Act of 1993 established the principle that "in the conduct of public business and administration of justice in Wales the English and Welsh languages should be treated on the basis of equality".

The Act also delegates the responsibilities on the implementation of the linguistic policy in Wales to the Welsh Language Board. This Board is the body in charge of the coordination of the actions undertaken by local authorities with reference to education, or to guarantee the possibility for Welsh speakers to be attended through the medium of their language by public administrations. Amongst the other measures undertaken by this body are that both Welsh and English are the official languages of the Welsh National Assembly, and the carrying out of a research survey to evaluate the state of the language.

CORNISH has no legal status in the UK. As with other minority languages the government resists arguments to give minority language groups official status, arguing that language use will not gain by legislation and the conferment of official status, but rather will derive from the facilitating and enabling process. Activists, on the other hand, press for the State's acceptance and ratification of the European Charter. The County Council of Cornwall does offer some financial support and is claimed to be sympathetic to the language movement, which is held to be apolitical, yet Cornish has no legal status.

SCOTS has no legal status or protection at this time in Scotland.

IRISH has no legal status in Northern Ireland. There has been no statutory development by reference to Irish in the north of Ireland.

The Government of the UK does not grant any official legal status to ULSTER-SCOTS.

It is argued that this lack of legal status or protection is also true of ENGLISH. English holds its status as the language of virtually all normal practice.

Background notes

Britain, the dominant industrial and maritime power of the 19th century, played a leading role in developing Parliamentary Democracy and in advancing literature and science. The British Empire covered approximately one-fourth of the earth's surface at its zenith.

In the first half of the twentieth century its strength was seriously depleted by two World Wars. Since the end of World War II, the British Empire has been dismantled, and Britain has rebuilt itself into a prosperous, modern European nation with significant international political, cultural, and economic influence.

At the close of the Twentieth Century, Britain is debating the degree of its integration with continental Europe. While a member of the EU, for the

time being it is staying out of the Euro System introduced in January 1999. Constitutional reform, including of the House of Lords and the devolution of power to Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, is an ongoing issue in Great Britain.

Independence: England has existed as a unified entity since the 10th century. The Union between England and Wales was enacted under the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284. In the Act of Union of 1707, England and Scotland agreed to a permanent Union as Great Britain. The legislative Union of Great Britain and Ireland was implemented in 1801, with the adoption of the name the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 formalized a partition of Ireland with six northern Irish counties remaining part of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland. The current name of the country, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was adopted in 1927.

Constitution: unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice

SECTION B

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

The Welsh, Gaelic, Scots minorities are asking for legislative protection of their languages.

The Welsh Language Society is campaigning for a wider recognition and legal status for the WELSH language. Their claims are now focused on the presence of Welsh within commercial activities, especially on the part of international companies, which the administration had only “encouraged” to do so up until the present time. A new Welsh Language Act is needed that will force the private, as well as the public sector, to treat the language equally to English. Orange, the mobile phone company, has already approached some of their handset manufacturers to discuss the possibility of adding Welsh to the language options available on-screen. As they open new shops in Wales, the company also says that they will be taking advice about employing Welsh-speaking staff and having bilingual sales material available in their stores. Recently the international soft drink company, Coca-Cola, began an advertising campaign in Welsh in parts of the country.

Since 1999, political parties in the Scottish Parliament have been promising to implement a law to secure official status to GAELIC. However, after a year there is still no concrete sign of will towards this legislation. The Bill should establish the principle of equal validity for Gaelic and English in Scotland. It should also create certain rights and

duties in law with regard to the use of Gaelic including a right to Gaelic-medium education, require certain specified public bodies to prepare and implement Gaelic policies. Additionally, it will guarantee the right to use Gaelic in courts and tribunals and before other judicial and quasi-judicial bodies and the right to use Gaelic names and descriptions. Ensuring the monitoring and enforcement of these rights and duties would fall under the responsibilities of this legislation.

Scots enjoys virtually no status in the realms of education, the media and the law. Two major attempts to boost the public image and to encourage promotion of Scots have failed. Firstly, a motion to have signs in Scots mounted in the Scottish Parliament, along with the bilingual signs in English and Gaelic, was turned down. Secondly, an attempt to have a question on the use of Scots included in the 2001 Census also failed. The language is extended no official recognition by the Scottish Parliament, but the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (EBLUL) recognizes it as a minority language. Just like its sister language Ulster Scots, which is spoken in Northern Ireland, Scots is often considered a dialect of English. However grammatical structure, vocabulary, phonology and history are quite different, and to many non-Scots speakers the language is virtually unintelligible.

Scots language activists have called the lack of public signage in SCOTS “an act of deliberate political discrimination”. Bilingual signage in English and Gaelic are in place in the buildings of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and in Gaelic-speaking areas. It has also been proposed that bilingual English/Gaelic signage be put up in all of Scotland’s National Parks, which are to be created shortly. However, no mention has been made of including the Scots language, spoken in the Lowlands and on the east coast, on signage in these parks or in the Scottish Parliament’s buildings. The Scots Language Association would like to see bilingual signage in place all over Scotland: Gaelic/English in the Gàidhealtachd (Gaelic-speaking areas), and Scots/English everywhere else. In areas where the two languages overlap, like Loch Lomond, and in the Scottish Parliament buildings, the signage should be trilingual. Scots language groups argue that bilingual Scots/English signage would help promote tourism.

The IRISH language community has lobbied for Irish or bilingual versions of such permanent items as driving licenses and certificates of births, deaths and marriage for many years. Northern Ireland's diverse cultural and linguistic heritage was set to experience a major boost when the all-Ireland institution responsible for the promotion of Irish and Ulster Scots, was restored on May 29, 2000, thereby ending a crisis in the funding and promotion of both languages. The reinstatement of the all-Ireland institution is a major step forward for Ulster-Scots especially, as

the language had no Government body to promote it during the suspension of the Northern Ireland Executive. Ulster-Scots has never had a Government institution dedicated to it. In the first years the Ulster Scots side of the cross-border institution will be mainly concerned with very basic projects, like working on a dictionary.

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

Legal proceedings are generally conducted in the English language. In criminal proceedings a translation service would be made available for those not able to understand or speak English.

Persons belonging to national minorities in Scotland may use their own language in their contacts with administrative authorities and public services. This is not a matter of right under national law but it is based on voluntary principles. National public services, for instance the Scottish Office, have routine access to translation services. In the main, traditional Gaelic speaking areas the local authority conducts its affairs bilingually.

WELSH

At present, a significant use of Welsh is made both by central and local government. Public officials are in many cases able to deal with members of the public in the language of their choice. Members of the public are also free to communicate with central government in Welsh, and if they do so, will receive a reply in the same language. In recent years Welsh has become increasingly visible on public notices, advertisements, check books, road signs, shop fronts, etc.

Welsh is taught at all educational levels to varying degrees, from pre-school level to university, but the level of provision varies a great deal between localities. The National Curriculum in Wales requires all pupils aged 5 to 14 to study Welsh. It is also compulsory for pupils aged 14-16 in non-Welsh-speaking schools. Vocational qualifications, higher and further education offer Welsh and through the medium of Welsh.

Welsh language is also used in the media such as TV, radio and the press.

The prospects for the survival of the Welsh language are good, says a linguistics expert from north Wales. David Crystal, an honorary professor at the University of Wales, Bangor says that Welsh is one declining language which has managed to reverse the trend, through a century of vigorous campaigning. More is needed to keep it going in the future. He claims that by embracing the world of television, film, newspapers and

the Internet, Welsh can evolve and grow, inspiring not only a new generation to speak it, but their children and grandchildren too.

Although there is some growth in Welsh speakers amongst young children and older people, the one suspect area is the interest of teenagers. "A classic example took place when the pop group, Manic Street Preachers used Welsh on a poster to advertise their new album, "This is My Truth – Tell Me Yours, (Dyma'n ngwirionedd – Dwed un ti)," Prof. Crystal recalled. "The members of the group do not speak Welsh, but, as their spokesperson put it, they wanted to do something special for Wales because they are proud of their Welsh heritage." However it was the reaction of some parts of the Welsh establishment that grabbed the attention of the media. One Welsh academic had criticized the group for a grammatical error. Prof. Crystal argues that public reaction of this kind does Welsh no good, especially as the language struggles to raise its profile among the youth. "Purists of this kind are the worst enemies of the Welsh language," he said. "If that attitude is to be maintained, Welsh would not survive to the next generation".

CORNISH

There is no public presence for the language except for bilingual road signs.

There are some voluntary playgroups but they exist without support. Cornish is not used as a medium of instruction at the primary or secondary levels, but it is possible to take an official exam (GCSE) in Cornish at the secondary level. No provisions exist for teacher training. At higher levels the language is not used as a medium or taught as a subject. It is possible, however, to study historical forms of the language within Celtic Studies courses at universities in Wales and elsewhere in the UK.

Broadcasting and press is limited.

SCOTS

Increasingly public services are being encouraged to deal with Scots by language activists.

Scots is actively encouraged in schools by the 5-14 Curriculum Guidelines. An Advanced Higher (6th year secondary school) in Scots language is now an option for pupils. The oldest Scottish universities - Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews all now teach Scots.

Scots now appears regularly in two major daily newspapers, sporadically in others and is increasingly being heard in the broadcast media in a wide range of programs.

Advertising in Scots, both in written and spoken forms, has seen a recent upsurge. A new bottled beer on the Scottish market has become the most recent in a series of products to be named, and advertised, in Scots. "Scots language advertising grips the ear because it is not what people expect to hear or see written. People are so used to just seeing English, but when they see a bit of Scots in an advertisement, it is just like meeting up with an old friend, and people pay attention to what is being said," said Robert Fairnie, of the Scots Language Association.

ULSTER SCOTS

It is not used in any of the public services. Some government departments have accepted correspondence in Ulster-Scots but have always replied in English.

Ulster-Scots is not accepted as a language subject in secondary education and is excluded from the curriculum. The universities also exclude it. None of the teacher-training colleges provide for the teaching of Ulster-Scots. In primary education, young children who use Ulster-Scots speech are subject to correction. Their language is not acknowledged but is treated as a low status rural dialect or bad English. It is the language of the playground and the home but not the classroom. There is no funding of any type from the education budget for Ulster-Scots.

Ulster-Scots has no access to regional television or radio. None of the regional newspapers carry a Ulster-Scots language column. The Ulster-Scots language Society for new writing in Ulster-Scots publishes the magazine "Ullans" annually.

IRISH

There is no great public presence for the Irish language.

There are limitations on the use of Irish in the provision of public services. The government recognizes and accepts the use in official business of the Irish version of personal names and also accepts official correspondence in Irish (although the reply will be in English).

The position of the Irish language has been recognized in the proposals for education reform in Northern Ireland. The curriculum provisions in the draft legislation provide that while all secondary schools must offer at least one of the French, German, Italian or Spanish languages as an

elective, they may in addition offer Irish. Pupils may choose any one of these languages to fulfill their curriculum requirement for language study. Up until now, Irish was taught as a subject only in a minority of schools (all Catholic ones). Only five schools use Irish as a medium of instruction. Three of these are state-supported, but the other two are financed by parents and local groups and are not yet officially recognized. Both Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster in Coleraine offer courses in Irish language and literature. One teacher-training college also provides for the teaching of Irish.

Regional BBC TV and radio broadcasting is in Irish, and some periodicals are published in the language.

GAELIC

Members of the public can use Gaelic in their dealings with the Western Isles Council and to a lesser extent with the Highland Council. It is not a statutory requirement for civil servants or local government staff to have knowledge of Gaelic. Some documents and forms are available in both languages as a token, rather than by statute. Public and village signs in Gaelic are only used in the Western Isles, while bilingual signs are in use in parts of the Highland Council, and Argyll and Bute Council areas. Some government offices in the Gaelic-speaking areas are also now using bilingual signs.

Education is the only area in which the use of Gaelic is regulated by legislation. The Education Act of 1980 stipulates that all education authorities in Gaelic-speaking areas should make provision for Gaelic education at all stages. However, "Gaelic-speaking areas" are not defined in the Act. Education exists at all levels, but Hill Park in Glasgow remains the only secondary school to offer some subjects through Gaelic. Teacher training in Gaelic is also available, and at the universities it is possible to take a degree in Gaelic and in Celtic Studies. There is also an extensive network of adult courses in Gaelic. However, there is a lack of teachers, and even though some teacher training colleges pay some attention to Gaelic, that isn't enough.

Radio and TV broadcasts exist and a Gaelic monthly newspaper was launched in 1998.

Did the country ratify any international treaty dealing with the protection of minorities?

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages signed on March 2, 2000.

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities signed on February 1, 1995, ratified on January 15, 1998 and enacted on May 1, 1998.

What else can be found about languages and minorities?

Immigrants, particularly those from Asia, brought their own language to Britain. In the case of children whose parents do not speak English in the home, schools have made extensive provisions for English language support to meet this need. Provision is also increasingly being made for the support of mother tongue teaching in school, as a means of ensuring access to the curriculum and facilitating the acquisition of English.

At the secondary level, the Education Reform Act provides that the National Curriculum shall include a modern foreign language as a foundation subject for pupils aged 11-16. The modern Foreign Languages Order made in November 1991 under Section 3 of the Act lists 19 languages, any of which may qualify as the foundation subject. They comprise eight working languages of the European Union and eleven other languages of cultural and commercial importance (Arabic, Bengali, Gujerati, Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin or Cantonese Chinese, Modern Hebrew, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish and Urdu). Schools may offer any of the eleven non-EU languages to meet the National Curriculum requirements, provided that they also offer at least one of the working languages of the EU. There are funds available through the Grant for Education Support and Training program for books, equipment and staff development to support the delivery of modern foreign languages. Pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds may choose to study their mother tongue if the school is able to offer it as a foundation subject, in preference to the EU language offered by the school. Schools are free to offer any languages not included in the Section 3 Order as second or subsequent languages after they have met the National Curriculum Requirements.

There are no restrictions on the right to equal participation in cultural opportunities on the grounds of race, color or ethnic origin. Special provision is made for minority communities where possible, such radio or TV broadcast in minority languages. One of the main aims of the Broadcasting Act 1990 was to provide opportunities for communities of all kinds to have access to broadcasting stations, offering program material designated to meet their specific tastes and interests.

In the commercial sector, the licensing body Independent Television Commission can issue, on request, licenses for program channels for cable television and for some satellite channels provided that certain consumer protection requirements will be met. A number of channels

have already been set up serving the Turkish, Greek, Asian, Afro-Caribbean and Arabic communities.

The Radio Authority, the licensing body, is not able to specify the nature of a station's programs. However, it is required, in selecting licensees, to have regard for the extent to which any proposed radio station would cater to the tastes and interests of people living in the area. As well as the extent to which it would broaden the range of programs already available on independent local radio there.

Most of the members of ethnic minority communities in the UK are British citizens and enjoy the same rights to participate in democratic life, vote, and stand for election as any other British citizen. In addition there is a range of formal and informal systems designed to ensure that the views of ethnic minority communities are taken into account in the formation of policy.

SECTION C

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

Updated (April 2001)

GAELIC

The annual conference of Gaelic language movement *Comunn na Gàidhlig* (CnaG) held in June in Edinburgh signaled little change or progress in the Scottish government's Gaelic policy. Minister for Gaelic, Alasdair Morrison, could only promise that the government was "working towards" secure status of the Gaelic language "step by step" despite the government promises that secure status legislation was going to be implemented in the first term of the Scottish Parliament. It provoked a frustrated response from delegates with some parents expressing exasperation with the struggle to safeguard Gaelic-medium education, something they claim secure status would protect. Leading Gaelic researcher, Kenneth MacKinnon, told the conference that numbers attending Gaelic-medium education would have to increase by at least 500 to 600% in order to replace the speakers who die every year. John MacLeod of the Gaelic parent association, *Comunn nam Parant* launched a petition backed by CnaG, which has as one of its main demands to pass the secure status legislation.

Updated (December 2002)

THE FIRST GAELIC LANGUAGE BILL LAUNCHED IN SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

The Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats launched on November 13, 2002 the first Gaelic Language Bill in the Scottish Parliament. The Bill, entitled *the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill*, is the first to be published simultaneously in English and Gaelic, and establishes the principle of equality between both languages. It pays special attention first of all to public administration by calling for normal communication in both languages, ability to respond to Gaelic enquiries, and the right to demand such services.

Some activists have criticized its limited character, either in terms of the geographical area where it will be applied (40 percent of Gaelic speakers are unprotected) or in terms of its social impact (it does not include education).

The Highlands and the Western Islands (part of Argyll and Bute and the islands of Arran, Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae) are the only areas covered by the Bill, but its framework for action allows for expansion in the future.

Source: Mercator News, November 2002,
<http://www.ciemen.org/mercator/index-gb.htm>; Eurolang News,
Edinburgh, November 14, 2002 by Davyth Hicks,
<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3951>

HIGHLAND COUNCIL LAUNCHES EDUCATION STRATEGY

At the same time as the Scottish Parliament launched its first Gaelic Language Bill, the Highland Council also discussed its Gaelic education strategy. The strategy of this local authority, promoting indigenous heritage and cultures of the Highlands, gives Gaelic and English an equal status in schools where both languages are used for teaching. Gaelic-medium education is the best hope for survival of the language in this area.

The Council's Gaelic working group has indicated that this strategy should set an example for the Scottish Executive to grant the language an equal status in a number of other areas. It commits the Council to take an initiative to develop Gaelic pre-school and childcare facilities, to react positively to the demands for Gaelic-medium provisions and to promote education in the language in new areas. Thus the Council

participates in the efforts to promote use of the language in the family, community and schools.

Donald Macdonald, the Council's Head of Education Services stated that the principle of total immersion in Gaelic should be applied to the highest possible degree in dual-language schools.

It is important that children see Gaelic on road signs, in shops and other places as well as in the media, because it will give the language a greater chance to become a part of community life.

Source: Eurolang News, Edinburgh, November 14, 2002, by Davyth Hicks, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3950>

Updated (February 2003)

MINORITY ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR AMENDMENTS TO IRISH LANGUAGE EQUALITY BILL

The Irish language coordinating group, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge, organizes nationwide public meetings to push for amendments to the Language Equality Bill. The Bill, shortly to be discussed in the Irish Senate, will guarantee that certain state and public services will be provided in Irish on an equal footing with those in English.

The Comhdháil's first meeting in Cork, on February 17, will be followed by further meetings in Galway, Mayo, Donegal, and Dublin. The meetings will give the public a chance to hear why the Comhdháil has proposed 42 amendments to the Language Equality Bill.

"Article 8 of the Irish Constitution gives Irish a special status. The reality; however, is that Irish speakers have had to go to court constantly for years to get the state to provide services that already should be provided," said Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh from Comhdháil. The Bill defines specific state services, which will have to be provided in Irish. It's important for the public to have as proactive role as possible in formulating the legislation.

The Comhdháil wants to be sure that the new legislation will in no way diminish the legal rights already won in the courts by Irish speakers. Further, they also want the Bill to set up a specific new Irish language circuit and a district court that will deal with cases in the Gaeltacht. The bulk of their amendments aim to ensure that the range and the quality of services from state bodies will be as good and diverse as those provided in English.

One of the worries of both Comhdháil Náisiúnta and the other major Irish language organization, Conradh na Gaeilge, is that the Bill does not contain effective sanctions against state bodies or public companies who fail to provide a proper service in Irish. The current proposal foresees that offenders can be named in the Dáil, the Irish Parliament. Ministers say this is a very stiff sanction, which public bodies will be very anxious to avoid. However, both Comhdháil and Conradh representatives want more severe sanctions.

Eamann Ó Cuív, the Minister for Rural, Gaeltacht and Community Affairs is enthusiastic about the Bill. While he is reluctant to be tied down to a specific timetable for its enactment, he is open to the amendments proposed by the Comhdháil and the Conradh. The Minister said that he would like the Bill to be enacted before the end of 2003.

Source: Eurolang News, Belfast, February 6, 2003, by Eoghan Ó Néill, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4079>

Updated (March 2003)

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE ENDORSES THE GAELIC LANGUAGE BILL

The Scottish Parliament's Education, Culture and Sport Committee has endorsed the general principles of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Bill.

However, their report also notes the limitations of the Bill and outlines some of its provisions, which should be re-examined. In particular, the Committee feels that language plans for the development of the Gaelic language should apply throughout Scotland and not just in the Highlands and Islands, as currently proposed by the Bill.

The Committee believes that the Gaelic language plan proposed by the Bill would be a step forward, with English and Gaelic operating on an equal basis. The Bill could dovetail well with the Gaelic Language Board (Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba) that should be formally established in legislation and its role and responsibilities should be clearly defined.

Sources: Eurolang News, Dùn Eideann, Edinburgh, February 28, 2003, by Alex O'Henley, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4121>

Updated (May 2003)

STRENGTHENED IRISH LANGUAGE BILL PASSED REPORT STAGE

On May 3, 2003, after Minister Ó Cuív accepted several amendments, the Official Languages (Equality) Bill was passed in the Irish Seanad. The Bill will now proceed to the Dáil Éireann.¹

The delay in the Seanad was caused by an intense campaign of some Irish language groups, who were unhappy with certain parts of the Bill. The wording originally used to describe the status of the Irish and English languages in the Bill differed from the definition of the status of these languages in the Irish Constitution. This caused fears that strong support guaranteed for the Irish language by the Constitution would, in time, be gradually replaced by less strong wording used in the Languages Bill. Responding to this the Minister announced that the Bill would use the same wording as the Constitution to define the status of the two languages.

As for criticism that state and semi-state bodies have not met sufficiently an obligation to respond to the correspondence in Irish, under this Bill such bodies will have to change their attitude. According to the Bill, headed paper used by public companies should be either in Irish or bilingual. Minister Ó Cuív promised that the guidelines and rules accompanying legislation would contain the provision that clerks of court and judges in Gaeltacht areas must be fluent in Irish. He also said that the Bill had one main purpose - to make a difference and predicted a five-fold increase in a number of services provided in Irish as a result of the Bill's enactment.

However, the Labor Party Senator, Derek Mc Dowell expressed doubts whether there will be enough financial resources available from the Ministry of Finance to allow proper implementation of the legislation. He mentioned that training of staff to provide bilingual services would require extra resources and finance.

According to Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh of Comhdháil Náisiúnta, the amendments, which Minister Ó Cuív had accepted in the Seanad, softened in some way their concerns about weaknesses of the Bill. However, the Bill still disallows a person to go to court to get redress if his/her rights are violated. As it stands a person can only seek redress via the language commissioner rather than through courts.

¹ The Irish Parliament (Oireachtas) consists of two Houses, Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (the Senate).

Source: Eurolang News, Belfast, May 3, 2003, Eoghan Ó Néill,
<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4235>

Updated (June 2003)

WELSH

The road to effective language legislation in the 20th Century was long and demanding, and the victories won in the first half of the century were the result of long and hard campaigns.

The 1942 Welsh Courts Act was one such victory, although it fell far short of equal treatment of Welsh and English in the courts. In relation to civil administration, official or statutory forms were rarely made available in Welsh. The Welsh language continued to have practically no status as far as public life was concerned. In 1963, under the chairmanship of Sir David Hughes Parry, the UK Government established a committee to examine the legal status of the Welsh language. Though in 1964, the Committee came to the conclusion that the law does not damage the standing of the language, its position should be regularized by an act declaring an official status for Welsh (or equal validity). Public sector bodies should be prepared to respond to the demands for services in Welsh.

The Government responded by passing the 1967 Welsh Language Act, which provided the Ministers with the right to prescribe statutory forms in Welsh and gave a commitment that individuals in Wales can choose between the Welsh and English language in courts. This commitment has underlain the growth in the use of Welsh by many other public bodies.

In the 1980s, in response to ever-increasing political pressure, the Government instituted a consultation process to ascertain whether widespread support existed at the time for further legislation. These consultations were partially responsible for prompting the establishment of the non-statutory Welsh Language Board in July 1988, to advise the Secretary of State for Wales on matters connected with the language.

In 1991, the advisory Board proposed to clarify the status of Welsh with the words that the language has an equal validity with English. The Government accepted the Board's advice that new legislation is inevitable, but considered a declaration of equal validity to result in both legal and practical difficulties.

In 1992, the Secretary of State for Wales affirmed that the equality between the Welsh and English languages should be achieved via

administrative rather than by a statutory declaration. The Welsh Language Act came into force in 1993.

EDUCATION

The legislation, which deals with Welsh-medium education, is separate from that one relating directly to the language. It was the 1870 Education Act that opened the door to teaching of Welsh in schools.

An important step forward was taken in 1927, when a report prepared by a committee established by the President of the Board of Education on Welsh Education and Life was published. It reported that although Welsh had made remarkable advances in schools since the 1880s, considerable resources were required for the training of teachers and the preparation of teaching materials. It was not until the Education Act of 1944 that legislation was passed to enable local education authorities to provide Welsh-medium schools. The first primary school supported by public funding was opened in 1947, in Llanelli, South West Wales. By 1950, there were other six Welsh-medium schools established in South Wales and five in North East Wales.

In 1956, in North Wales, Ysgol Glan Clwyd was established as the first Welsh-medium secondary school.

Full recognition for Welsh education came in 1988, when the Education Reform Act gave Welsh the status of a core subject of the National Curriculum in Wales in Welsh-medium schools (defined by the Act as Welsh speaking schools) and the status of a foundation subject in the rest of schools in Wales.

In 1990, Welsh became a compulsory subject for all pupils in Wales at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 (i.e. up to the age of 14). Since 1999, it has become a compulsory subject also at Key Stage 4; what means that all pupils in Wales study Welsh (either as a first or a second language) for 11 years, from 5 to 16.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Welsh language in education in the United Kingdom, 2001,
http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_welsh_in_uk.htm

Updated (July 2003)

IRELAND ADOPTS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

On July 4, 2003 Ireland's Dáil Éireann (House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (Senate) passed the text of the Official Languages Bill 2002.¹ Once the President of Ireland Mary McAleese signs it, it will be known as "the Official Languages Act 2003."

The Bill is the first piece of legislation to provide a statutory framework for the delivery of services in the Irish language.

Its final passage through the Dáil and the Seanad was actually more positive than had been expected. Minister Ó Cuív introduced several amendments, which encapsulated many proposals from opposition benches and from the Irish language organizations.

The Minister's decision to remove Article 32 was widely welcomed. Article 32 prevented citizens from going to court to seek redress if the rights guaranteed under the Bill were not provided.

However inclusion of Article 41 was not expected. This amendment obliges all public bodies to communicate with the public in writing or by electronic post in Irish exclusively or bilingually.

Minister Ó Cuív also decided to give legal recognition to Irish language place-names. No Irish government has given such status to the Irish language place-names since setting up of the state.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL

- *To promote the respect for both Irish and English as the state official languages*
- *To promote their equal status by placing several duties on the organs of State and public bodies, by introducing a monitoring mechanism as well as legalizing the Irish version of place names*

As for the monitoring mechanism, each year the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs shall submit a report to each House of the Oireachtas on the operation of the Act in the preceding year. The office of the Official Languages Commissioner shall be established to monitor compliance of public bodies with the

¹The Official Languages Bill 2002, published in April 2002, was passed by Seanad Éireann on May 13, 2003. The Second Stage of the Official Languages Bill 2002 was approved in Dáil Éireann on May 23, 2003.

provisions of the Act and to carry out advisory and assistance tasks both to public bodies and to the public.

- *To provide for the use of the official languages in each House of the Oireachtas (the National Parliament); in the publication of Acts; in the administration of justice; in communication with public bodies; and in advertisements, stationery and signage*
- *To provide for the preparation of statutory schemes by public bodies which will detail the services that they provide in the Irish language, prior to a public consultative process, ensuring that an adequate number of staff is competent in the Irish language and also that any linguistic requirements associated with the provision of services in the Gaeltacht (the Irish-speaking areas) are met*

The Bill ensures better availability and a higher standard of public services in Irish, by placing a statutory obligation on Departments of State and public bodies to deliver such services in a coherent and agreed fashion through a statutory planning framework known as a “scheme.” The schemes remain in force for three years and then they are renewed by an agreement between the head of the body concerned and the Minister. The intention of this renewal mechanism is to secure a significant improvement in the level of public services available through Irish over time, as demand requires.

The principal provisions of the Bill are the following:

- 1) Publication of Acts simultaneously in both official languages (Section 7)
- 2) The use of the official languages in legal proceedings so that a person has the right to be heard in the official language of his or her choice. (Section 8)
- 3) The duty of public bodies to prepare a statutory scheme detailing the services that they will provide through the medium of Irish; through the medium of English and in both languages
- 4) The measures to be adopted to ensure that any service not provided by the body through the medium of the Irish language will be provided so (with a timeframe to be agreed - in effect, distinguishing between such services to be provided in lifetime of the current scheme and those to be addressed in a longer timeframe) (Section 9)

- 5) The duty of public bodies to ensure that the official languages are used on stationery, signage and advertisements, in accordance with regulations to be made by the Minister. (Section 10 (1))
- 6) The duty of public bodies to reply to correspondence - in writing or by electronic mail - in the language in which that correspondence was written (Section 10(2))
- 7) Certain documents of public interest, for example, policy proposals or annual reports, shall be published in each of the official languages simultaneously (Section 11)
- 8) The office of the Official Languages Commissioner should be established. The Commissioner will be independent in the performance of his or her duties and will be appointed by the President (Section 20)
- 9) Assigning general responsibility to the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to ensure the delivery of State services through Irish (Sections 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17)

The Language Commissioner will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the rights guaranteed by the Act and for tackling any bodies which do not implement those rights. However, only passage of time will tell whether people in the Gaeltacht or outside of it will actually avail of the rights guaranteed by the new Act.

Source: Mercator News, 2003 July,
<http://www.ciemen.org/mercator/index-gb.htm>, the Website of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs,
<http://www.pobail.ie/en/IrishLanguage/OfficialLanguagesBill2002/> and EuroLang News, Dublin, July 8, 2003, by Eoghan Ó Néill,
<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/euroLang/pajenn.asp?ID=4315>

Background notes

Updated (September 2002)

HISTORY OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Around the year 1800, less than a third of the population in Ireland (around one and a half million people) spoke English, some two million spoke Irish and half a million were bilingual.

In 1831, legislation brought into existence so-called national schools with the English language instructions. Irish could not be taught and children were even punished for speaking Irish among themselves. An

array of tools was employed to achieve this - tally sticks, wooden gags, humiliation and mockery. This practice, in one form or another, continued until the early years of the 20th Century.

After the Potato Famine in 1845, people abandoned Irish as quickly as they could and collaborated with the schools in forcing their children to use only English. By 1890, Irish was known by less than 15 percent of the population, mainly older people inhabiting mostly remote areas in the west of the country.

There were a few voices, which advocated doing something to stem the total demise of Irish. In 1876, the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language was established, followed by the breakaway Gaelic Union in 1880. However, it was only in 1893, with an organization called the Gaelic League (established in Dublin), when the progress started to become evident. The objective of the Gaelic League was to conserve Irish as a living vernacular. The Irish language and attendant culture was rich, beautiful and of great antiquity. Against all the odds the message of the Gaelic League was heard and accepted by more and more people throughout the country. Language classes were organized, traditional storytelling, singing, music and dancing were fostered and campaigns launched to advance Irish in everyday life.

In 1918, “Sinn Féin,” the republican separatist party, won a majority of the Irish seats in the British general elections. Instead of taking their seats at Westminster they set up an independent parliament in Dublin and declared a Republic. Ministers were appointed and a government program was adopted with the revival of Irish as one of the main objectives. Not surprisingly, the British did not recognize a new state.

Article 8 of “Bunreacht na hÉireann” [Constitution of Ireland], enacted in 1937, states that:

1. The Irish language as the national language is the first official language.
2. The English language is recognized as the second official language.
3. Provision may, however, be made by law for the exclusive use of either of the said languages for any one or more official purposes, either throughout the state or in any part thereof.

Article 25/4 has an interesting provision, which states that:

In case of conflict between the texts of any copy of this Constitution enrolled under this section, the text in the national language shall prevail.

There is a certain irony in this as the Irish version of the Constitution is a translation of the English text...Most bills submitted to the houses of the Oireachtas [Dáil and Seanad] are prepared in English and are translated into Irish only after enactment, sometimes with a considerable delay.

Notwithstanding the high constitutional recognition accorded to Irish, English is by far the dominant language in almost all domains of national life. There is an enormous gap between the theoretical position of Irish and its real position. Irish speakers wishing to use Irish in their everyday lives can expect obstruction and delays, even when dealing with government.

Máirtín Ó Cadhain, author, polemicist, one-time revolutionary, described the situation: “in Ireland the government guarantees the right and provides the means for having the Irish language taught. However, outside of the schools, it makes the functioning of that language, in any practicable form, impossible.”

Ireland is in an unusual position because, although officially bilingual, it has no legislation regulating the use of the two official languages. The Official Languages Bill was to be published before Christmas 2001 but it was delayed and now it is almost certainly not going to be enacted by the current government office. Its objectives are to specify the language rights of citizens consistent with constitutional status of both languages; to specify the obligations of Departments of State and of the public sector to provide services for citizens in the official languages; to place a statutory obligation on Departments of State and public organizations to make specific provision for delivery of an agreed quantum of state services through Irish; to assign general responsibility to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands in regard to the delivery of state services through Irish; and to provide for the overseeing, monitoring and enforcing of the Act by the establishment of the Office of the Official Languages Commissioner.

Source: World Congress on Language Policies, Barcelona, April 16-20, 2002, “Irish – Official yet lesser used,” by Dónall Ó Riagáin, http://www.linguapax.org/congres/taller/taller3/article21_ang.html

Updated (June 2003)

IRISH

Irish, or Gaeilge, is an autochthonous language spoken in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland (which is a part of the United Kingdom with a devolved assembly). It is a Celtic language closely related to

Scottish Gaelic and Manx and more distantly related to Welsh, Breton and Cornish.

According to the 1996 Census, 1.43 million persons aged three and over, returned themselves, or were returned, as Irish speakers in the Republic. This constitutes 43.5 percent of the total population.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Irish language in education in the Republic of Ireland, 2000,
http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_irish_in_ireland.htm

WELSH

Welsh is a Celtic language, closely related to Cornish and Breton. Its distant cousins are the Irish, Manx and Gaelic languages.

The language, as spoken today, is descended directly from Early Welsh, which emerged in the 6th Century when it was used not only in Wales, but also in large parts of Southern Scotland and Northern England. Since the 11th Century it has been largely confined to the area corresponding to that of present-day Wales. Up to the 16th Century, Welsh was the only language of most people living in Wales, and it remained the first language of the majority until the end of the 19th Century. The single most important event that saved the Welsh language from extinction was the publication of the Bible in Welsh, in 1588.

As a result of the 1536 and 1542 Acts of Union, English became the language of law, administration and education in Wales. Between the middle of the 16th and the 19th Century, Wales was almost indistinguishable from any other part of England, except two important respects:

- 1) Welsh, not the English language, was the only means of communication for most of the people of Wales
- 2) In the public sphere, Welsh was also the predominant language of religious worship

In 1872, the first university in Wales opened at Aberystwyth. In 1890, following the 1870 Education Act which introduced compulsory education in Wales, the Government made a concession and paid capitation grants to schools which taught Welsh. This by no means obliged any school to teach Welsh; however, it did mean that the Welsh language gained a toehold in the education system. Attitudes to the language within education were often profoundly hostile. The decline experienced in the 20th Century can be attributed to the following:

- Migration from rural to urban areas in search of work. Rural depopulation was at its worst during the late 1920s and 30s and has continued in parallel with the decline in the agriculture industry in Wales over the past fifty years
- Inward migration of English speakers to rural and urban areas
- Increased availability and popularity of English language news and entertainment media
- General secularization of the society, causing a decline in chapel attendance, on which many traditional Welsh-medium activities were centered
- Lack of support and often active discouragement within the education system
- Low prestige of the language

During the last thirty years a revival of interest in the language and “Welshness” has been reflected in the growth and development of Welsh medium education that has provided an opportunity for new generations to become Welsh speakers.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Welsh language in education in the United Kingdom, 2001,
http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_welsh_in_uk.htm

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

Updated (January 2001)

CRITICISM OF THE FORTHCOMING UK CENSUS

The Census, due to be held on April 29, 2001 has been a cause of controversy among nearly all-autochthonous minority languages in Britain.

In Wales, the UK Census on the ethnicity question is missing the option “Welsh”.

On the census forms will not be a question on Scots. Therefore Scots language activists are asking Scots speakers to fill in “I speak, write and understand Scots” or similar in the space for “other ethnic background”. There are estimated 2,5 million Scots speakers in central and eastern Scotland. The Scots language and Ulster Scots have frequently been the

targets of mockery in the media, who claim their languages are nothing more than dialects of English.

The campaign to record Gaelic speakers on this census forms throughout the entire UK failed as well. Only the census forms in Scotland will include the question on the use of Gaelic. The UK Government body responsible for compiling the Census refused to include the question on forms outside of Scotland for fear that a question on the use of all other languages spoken in the UK would have to be included.

WELSH

In Wales, according to the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru, the only way to safeguard Welsh speaking communities is to strengthen the economy of these areas. As the wages in rural areas in Wales are much lower, the young people are not able to compete in the housing market and are unable to buy new houses. Vice versa, many newcomers from affluent parts of England pay much higher prices than locals.

According to an expert on planning issues, Dr Mark T. Jones, there exists legislation to enable councils of these areas to limit sales of houses in certain areas, give preference to local people thus keeping prices down. This restriction is seen as “racial” to outsiders who are mostly English speakers. In the Welsh planning policies there is a clause that the Welsh language can be considered in planning issues. Councils can refuse a development to a Welsh-speaking area if they feel that it will attract non-Welsh speaking outsiders. Currently, the Welsh Assembly is preparing a draft document on housing but it is afraid of being labeled as racist after it allows imposing such restrictions on the housing market.

Updated (April 2001)

WELSH

The Welsh language Board accused the newly established Welsh Assembly of sidelining the Welsh language. Although nearly half of the Assembly members are either fluent speakers or learners, only one percent of Assembly staff, apart from translators, are Welsh speaking.

Delyth Evans, a Welsh-speaking member of the Assembly for the Labour Party, welcomes the criticism but on the other side he does not accept that there is a lack of commitment in the Assembly. It is because there is more emphasis on translating rather than using the language within the Assembly’s activities and departments. A number of staff do not have the opportunity to use it.

Updated (July 2001)

GAELIC

Controversy arose over the decision by Glasgow Council to display warning bilingual signs in some areas of the city in Punjabi and Urdu but not in Gaelic. A council representative rejected suggestion for Gaelic signs since the city's Gaelic speakers are already bilingual.

Updated (February 2002)

GAELIC

In the Highland region in Scotland a row broke out between councilors and the Scottish Executive over the continuing delay in putting up bilingual road signs. Councilors have also threatened to take the Executive to court for contravening the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The disagreement started after the letter from the Deputy Transport Minister Lewis MacDonald, which implied that there would be further delays and that bilingual signs could even be dangerous. However, law lecturer Rob Dunbar from the University of Glasgow said "There is no way they can take it to court, because this requires Scottish or UK domestic legislation". This raises further questions about the effectiveness of the Charter. For example, to what extent councilors and civil servants have been informed about effecting its implementation and the monitoring of any progress. So far, six months after the charter ratification, the Scottish Executive has not taken any resolute action to promote Gaelic.

CORNISH

A debate about Cornish autonomy is on the UK's political agenda, following the handing in of a petition on December 12th with 50,000 signatures, representing 10% of the country's population. The petition was collected by a broad cross-party pressure group campaigning for a Cornish Assembly, ("Senedh Kernow" in Cornish), similar to that found in Wales. The petition coincides with current demands by the Cornish to have their language included on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and also to be included as a "national minority" in the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. To be included on both would give a boost to the language and would guarantee a minimum of linguistic rights.

However, even though 10% surpasses the required figure set by the Government to stage a referendum, it remains to be seen whether the

Labor Party will fulfill its manifesto commitment to deliver devolution to those regions which desire it.

The issue was further complicated by a row about the true aim of the petition. The Labor MP for Falmouth Camborne in Cornwall, Candy Atherton, has upset Cornish activists by saying that the 50,000 people who signed the Cornish petition were demonstrating support for devolution to the “lowest possible level” and were not necessarily all in favor of a Cornish Assembly. The petition however stated clearly “I support the campaign for a Cornish Assembly”.

Councilor Bert Biscoe, Chairman of the Cornish Constitutional Convention, and leader of the campaign for the Assembly says: “The clear object now is to convince the Government that the Cornish case is as good as that of the North East [of England] and good enough to put Cornwall into the first phase of devolution, and to agree in the first instance to hold a Cornish referendum”.

WELSH

The Welsh language - as well as Scots Gaelic - were recognized as two of the indigenous languages of Britain when David Blunkett, the Home Secretary of the British parliament, agreed that fluency in either of these languages or English would be part of the requirements for immigrants to gain British citizenship.

According to this recognition, the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru wants the government to make greater use of the Welsh language in parliament. At present the only time the language is heard is when a new member of parliament (MP) wishes to take the oath in Welsh when entering parliament. Welsh is classified as a foreign language and cannot be used in parliamentary proceedings - although Latin and French can.

Plaid Cymru MP Simon Thomas has called for changes that would allow the use of the language in committees which deal with Welsh matters. At present, the language can only be used when these committees meet in Wales, which is very rarely. As soon as these committees cross the border then the language is unacceptable.

But although great strides have been made in securing the language a place in official circles, the position of the language is quite precarious within society. A poll by BBC Wales shows that nearly a third of Welsh speaking parents do not speak the language with their children. Only 40% of Welsh speaking parents speak the language all the time with their children. And a surprising 30% of the Welsh speakers questioned were not in favor of the compulsory teaching of Welsh in schools. Results

of the poll showed that only 65% of the 1,004 survey interviewees believe that Welsh would be a living language in just 40 years time.

The poll also asked questions on immigration from England to the Welsh language's heartlands. Over 60% of the Welsh speakers were of the opinion that immigrants made an useful economic contribution to these areas, but 52% said that they should learn the language.

But the issue of immigration will not go away. Simon Brooks, one of the leaders of a recently formed language pressure group "Cymuned" (Community) said that dissatisfaction within Welsh-speaking areas will lead to civil disobedience if the Assembly does not address these concerns.

Updated (March 2002)

GAELIC

Mike Watson, the new Minister for Gaelic and Culture, has appalled Gaelic supporters by declaring that neither one of the two chief recommendations of the MacPherson Report on Gaelic funding is likely to be put into effect. The recommendations were that an additional 10 million pounds (16,394,961 euro) should be spent annually on the language, and that a small Gaelic department to be set up within the Civil Service to advise on distribution of funds.

Most Gaelic supporters see the legislation as essential for normalization of the language and the Scottish Labour Party even made a Gaelic Language Act or "Secure Status" legislation part of its manifesto commitment, following a petition with 10,000 signatures in support and cross-party endorsements.

Rob Dunbar, a minority language rights expert and law lecturer said:

"This is a government which has no policy for Gaelic and indeed no regard for Gaelic. Its performance is a complete disgrace and embarrassment. Who would have thought that a Labour-led coalition in a Scottish Parliament would make a Conservative Westminster government look good on Gaelic."

Updated (July 2002)

WELSH

The National Assembly of Wales's Culture Committee, after a year's consultation, have signed off their report on the future of the Welsh language.

Although, in general, the number of Welsh speakers is on the increase, the language faces its worst ever threat in its heartlands - in the north and the west. Over the last twenty years, thousands of incomers have moved into these areas, and although steps have been taken to ensure that they, and especially their children, learn the language, these measures have only had limited success. In a survey made in 1961, there were 279 communities with over 80 percent of their population speaking the language. By 1991, this number had fallen to 32, and since 80 percent is the threshold where a language has a chance to survive, this is a bad news for the Welsh language.

The only way to save the language is to save it and strengthen it in its heartlands. In the anglicized areas, the language is facing a revival, but here, at the most, Welsh-speakers will only make about 10 percent of the population.

This is the task that the Assembly's Culture Committee tries to address. The approach is three-pronged - planning and housing, the economy and education.

The Assembly proposes that the Welsh language should be an issue when considering planning applications for housing developments, and that only when a local need is established that these developments receive permission. It also proposes the extension of a scheme where local people receive financial grants to enable them to compete with incomers in the housing market.

Many of the young Welsh-speakers leave their communities due to lack of work and opportunities. The Assembly proposes that the Welsh Development Agency and the Welsh Tourist Board concentrate on these areas to help local people set up businesses and to help inward investment into the area. They also propose improving the transport infrastructure in and to these areas in order to stimulate businesses.

Learning of Welsh in schools was compulsory for a number of years, but it was not successful, as the language tended to be associated with formal education rather than being a social skill. Many children, although they had received years of Welsh lessons, left school without being fluent in it. Others decide not to use the language. The Assembly proposes that the greatest effort should be aimed at children between three and five years old, when learning is easy. This, in theory, would make primary and secondary teaching of the language more successful.

When the Assembly was established three years ago, many saw this as an opportunity to save the language. However, groups campaigning for the language have already expressed disappointment. The Welsh

Language Society is disappointed that there will not be a new Welsh Language Act, which would force private companies to use the language. The next step for the Assembly is to debate the recommendations and to implement them before it will be too late to save the language.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Bangor, July 1, 2002 by Dafydd Meirion

Updated (August 2002)

WELSH

The Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, Rhodri Williams, presenting the annual report of the board at Pwllheli (north-west Wales), spoke about the need to safeguard the consensus amongst politicians and supporters of the Welsh language. According to him one of the undisputed successes of the past was to safeguard the language from being treated as a political football. The campaign of the Welsh language group "Cymuned" (Community), which has drawn attention to the threat of the language in its heartland due to immigration, mainly from England although having quite sincere reasons, has put the prevailing consensus in peril.

At present, the Language Board can only compel public bodies to use the language under the terms of the Welsh Language Act of 1993. The Welsh Language Society has been pressing for a new language act that would have ensured that private companies would use the language. So far, both the Assembly and the Welsh Language Board have refused this by saying that the best way is to come to voluntary agreements with private companies. This has had only limited success so far.

THE WELSH ASSEMBLY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Welsh Assembly has made its first policy announcement after the recent publication of its report on the future of the language. The main theme is setting up local action plans to encourage and promote the use of the language in all aspects of everyday life.

The Assembly proposes to employ 10 extra people to work on local language initiatives, to establish 3 extra language initiative areas and extra funds for the Welsh nursery and youth movements.

The proposals were generally welcomed, however, the way how to limit immigration of English-speakers into Welsh-speaking areas was not mentioned. This has been one of the controversial issues brought forward by pressure group "Cymuned," which claimed that immigration is a threat to the Welsh language. According to Jenny Randerson, the

Minister responsible for the language in the Assembly, the policy won't satisfy some language activists who want to cut Wales off from the rest of Britain and the world.

Cymuned recommended that there should be a limit on the number of people moving into Welsh-speaking areas. A spokesman for Cymuned said they were colonized to such a degree that they could not manage what is happening around. There is nothing that will help to integrate immigrants, to force them to learn Welsh and something about their new country.

The Assembly's proposals try to strengthen the language in these areas, and at the same time they offer opportunities to immigrants to learn the language. The policy will strongly support bilingualism, but also welcome people to Wales.

The Welsh Language Board is satisfied with the Assembly's proposal. According to the Chairman, Rhodri Williams: "for the first time, there is a commitment to promote the language across all areas of government activity, not keeping the language in a cultural cul-de-sac."

Source: Eurolang, www.eurolang.net, Bangor, July 31, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion

Updated (September 2002)

GAELIC

Currently, according to the estimates, there are more than 65,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland. This figure has suggested that only one new person takes up the language for every five Gaelic speakers who die.

Since 1993 the number of primary schools offering Gaelic medium education has grown from 45 to 59 and the corresponding number of pupils from 1,080 to 1,859. In pre-school education 403 pupils are taught in 36 registered nurseries. Many of these developments have been assisted by "Comann nam Parant," a network of thirty local groups representing the interests of parents whose children are educated in Gaelic.

In one of the surveys the Gaelic students expressed their fear for the future of the language. The government should be supporting Gaelic, as it is a minority language of the country. The need is not only in the Highlands and Islands but it is Scotland-wide. The number of people speaking the language is decreasing and thus the calls for legislation to ensure its future are heard. Secure status would guarantee the language further funding, development and opportunities. However, the Tourism

and Culture Minister Mike Watson said that a Language Act would not be considered, because legal status would mean a requirement for Gaelic to be taught across the whole Scotland and that would not be an appropriate use of executive resources. The Minister said he could not justify legal status for the language if it meant teaching Gaelic in the Borders and Fife where demand was low.

Donna Barden from a language organization “Strì nan Oileanach,” however, pointed out how important this bill is for the whole Scotland and not only for the Highlands and Islands. Gaelic language act will be of no use to the survival and development of the language unless it is for the whole country.

The Minister Watson stressed that many resources are put into the language development. £200,000 had been made available for further training of Gaelic-speaking secondary school teachers to enable them to teach their subject in the language. It is also hoped that an extra funding from the Scottish Executive will encourage a new generation to learn and teach Gaelic. In this financial year the Executive has provided £2.8 million in specific grants for Gaelic education.

Source: BCC, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/1876526.stm>, March 16, 2002; “Gaelic targets a new generation;” BCC, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/2235631.stm>, September 4, 2002, “Gael warning over language;” Eurolang news, www.eurolang.net; <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/news.asp?id=3821>, Dùn Èideann, Edinburgh, September 5, 2002, by Davyth Hicks

What does it cost in terms of money, time and government resources to police the country’s language restrictions?

Updated (October 2002)

The Minister for Gaelic, Mike Watson on October 13, at the launch of “Mod at Largs”¹ festival, announced that resources for Gaelic have increased to £ 450,000 (€ 710,000). However, he made no statement on Executive backing for the Gaelic Language Act.

Another £ 70,000 (€ 110,000) are available for so much needed Gaelic teacher training course in Lewis, which will enable more people, particularly women to be trained and work as teachers. Minister Watson

¹ The yearly Mod is an itinerant annual festival of Gaelic culture. Affectionately termed the “Whisky Olympics” it is an opportunity for Gaels to gather and compete in songs, poetry and dancing.

is convinced these activities together with other Executive initiatives already under way will contribute to overall aim to secure the future of the Gaelic language and culture.

Source: Eurolang News, Edinburgh, October 14, 2002, by Davyth Hicks, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3870>

Updated (February 2003)

CONTROVERSIAL IRISH LANGUAGE CRITERIA IN HOUSING DROPPED

A highly controversial proposal to restrict a house planning permission to fluent Irish speakers in the Conamara Gaeltacht has now been amended by its sponsor.

Councilor Pól Ó Foighil, a well known stalwart of the Gaeltacht community, had made this proposal to try to ensure that Irish speakers were given priority in housing in one of Ireland's largest Gaeltacht areas.

Galway County Council already requires a "language impact statement" from building applicants in the Gaeltacht. The 2000 Planning Act states that there must be mandatory policy objectives to protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the area, including Irish.

Pól Ó Foighil's proposal to restrict a planning permission to Irish speakers evoked an enormous amount of controversy especially in the media in England. Many Irish papers also covered the story extensively. When the proposal was in the course of being accepted by the Council, it started to be criticized by an unexpected source – Irish speakers.

Councilor Ó Foighil suggested in an interview for Raidió na Gaeltachta that not only a planning applicant but also all members of his/her family must be fluent in the Irish language. This raised even stronger criticism from Irish speakers. Conamara people who had immigrated to Boston feared that they would not be able to return home with American spouses and families who do not speak Irish fluently. After their protests Pól Ó Foighil apologized and he also announced that he had put forward a new amendment to replace his earlier proposal.

This new amendment stresses that Gaeltacht emigrants will not be a subject of language restrictions. The authorities will help members of any family to learn or improve their Irish. Further amendments proposed at Galway County Council stress that there should be no compulsory level of fluency in the Irish language. Instead there will be a commitment by the authorities to provide support to anyone moving into the area that wishes to learn and use Irish.

Source: Eurolang, Belfast, February 18, 2003, by Eoghan Ó Néill, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4096>

Updated (November 2002)

WELSH INITIATIVES TO TARGET YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAVE THE LANGUAGE

Two initiatives in the fight to save the Welsh language have been recently announced in Wales. The research showed that only 50 percent of parents where one speaks Welsh pass the language on their children. Another factor affecting the language is that many young Welsh-speakers leave a stronghold of the language in search of work and opportunities.

An extra £100,000 (158,700 Euro) was contributed to the Twf (Growth) Program recently by the Welsh Language Board, which has already received £500,000 (793,530 Euro) for the next three years. The aim of the program is to try and persuade young parents to transfer the language to their children. To achieve this, midwives are trained to discuss and hand out leaflets in hospitals noting the benefits of being bilingual.

“It is an extremely innovative project,” says Delyth Evans, a member of the National Assembly of Wales and adds: “No other country in the world has set up an initiative like this. A number of people responsible for the development of language policy in Ireland and Canada visited Wales and demonstrated huge interest in the Twf project. The idea of helping people to appreciate the merit and importance of language within the family unit is of fundamental importance if the Welsh language is to survive.”

In order to try and persuade young people to stay in the Welsh-speaking areas, Gwynedd Council set up the Llwyddo'n Lleol (Succeeding Locally) Conference. At the conference, Eurig Wyn, a member of the European Parliament, said that Wales could learn a lesson from the Scandinavian countries. Scandinavia and the Scottish island used the latest communication methods to ensure that people living in remote areas can receive their education without having to move away. The government of Sweden has gone as far as to offer tax incentives to young parents who will raise families in the designated areas. This has been fairly successful and shows how seriously the Swedish government takes this issue.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, October 28, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3900>

WELSH ASSEMBLY DOUBLES ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE LANGUAGE BOARD

The amount of money received by the Welsh Language Board from the National Assembly of Wales has raised from £7 million (11,1 million Euro) to over £13 million (20,6 million Euro) for the next three years.

The extra money will be spent on strengthening the local language initiatives and community schemes.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, October 28, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3903>

EXTRA £1.3M FOR WELSH-LANGUAGE PUBLISHING

The National Assembly of Wales has recently announced that the Wales Books Council is to receive an extra £1.3m (2 million Euro) over the next three years for the publication of Welsh-language books.

These funds will be used as a financial assistance to authors and to strengthen the infrastructure of the industry to boost Welsh-language publishing. It is important in a bilingual and literate country that people of all ages and all backgrounds have an access to a wide range of high-quality reading material in Welsh.

About 600 Welsh-language books are published annually, selling on average about 1,200 copies. According to the Books Council, which provided grants for nearly all these books, this compares well with other minority languages. The extra funding will allow publishers to offer authors up to £10,000 (15,600 Euro) to write a book where there is a gap in the market.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, November 5, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3913>

IRISH LANGUAGE MINISTER TO REVIEW A CONTROVERSIAL LANGUAGE SCHEME

The Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív, said he wanted to conduct a review of the “Speaking of Irish Scheme” (Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge), which has been in operation since 1932. According to this controversial scheme, families whose children of school-going age are fluent in Irish get a grant of 260 Euro per year in the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking area).

The Minister told the Irish language radio that he invites opinions from the public about the future of the scheme. He is not certain that financial incentives such as this one are the best way of ensuring the future of Irish as a community language in the Gaeltacht

Source: Eurolang News, Dublin, October 29, 2002, by John Walsh, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3905>

Updated (December 2002)

THE WELSH LANGUAGE USED AS A TOOL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A language initiative based in northwest Wales, aimed to persuade businesses to use the Welsh language, has received European funding. The European Union contributed with the sum £350,000 (552,000 Euro) and the remaining £250,000 (394,500 Euro) came from the local economic development company “Cymad,” the Welsh Language Board and the Wales Tourist Board.

Recent research shows that 60 percent of Welsh-speakers are more likely to support businesses where the language is spoken. Thus the money will be used to employ five full-time field officers for a period of three years, whose task will be to show businessmen the advantages of using the Welsh language while dealing with customers. Cultural activities and community-based organizations using the language will also receive support and steps will be taken to encourage young people to study and speak the language.

According Iddon Edwards, the co-coordinator of the local language initiative “Menter Iaith Gwynedd,” they hope that the scheme will make the language an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the region.

The areas where this scheme will be operating have the highest percentage of Welsh-speakers (73 percent according to the 1991 Census).

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, November 22, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3978>

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROVIDES EXTRA MONEY FOR WELSH

The National Assembly of Wales has announced that an additional sum of £27 million (42 million Euro) will be allotted to safeguard and expand the use of the Welsh language in the country. The goal of this initiative is to raise the number of Welsh speakers about 5 percent by 2011. This, if achieved, would mean that about 40 percent of the Wales population would have knowledge of the language.

The four main objectives of “Iaith Pawb” (Everyone’s Language) are the normalization of bilingualism in national life, strengthening the language in the family and the community, providing opportunities to learn the

language and ensuring consensus and goodwill for bilingualism. It also highlights the need for all ministers to share responsibility for the future of the language.

Extra money will be available for a range of bodies and projects (for the Welsh Language Board, the Welsh Books Council and the schemes to help local people buy houses in a competitive market and to provide Welsh teaching material for nursery schools). There will also be an extra funding for local language initiatives.

But these proposals were not universally welcomed. The pressure group “Cymuned” (Community) said that the proposals did not go far enough to ensure the survival of the language in its heartlands and to help it cope with the onslaught of English speakers’ migration. On the other hand the Welsh Language Society was disappointed that a new language act that would compel the private sector to use more of the language was not mentioned.

Although there is an additional £9 million (14 million Euro) for Welsh language education, this sum will be spent mainly on nursery education. The Welsh teaching union UCAC criticized the fact that there is no follow-through from the nursery schools and no extra money to train teachers to teach in Welsh is allocated.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, November 28, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3983>

Updated (January 2003)

MONEY SPENT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT, MAINLY IN ANGLICIZED AREAS

The Welsh Language Board has just announced that over £6 million (€9 million) will be spent on the language in the years 2002/3. This sum has increased of 35 percent compared to the last year. The Board receives the money from the National Assembly and its goal is to raise the number of Welsh speakers by 5 percent till 2011.

A large part of this money is aimed to broaden the base of the language and concentrates on the anglicized southern areas of Wales. The main beneficiaries are two new initiatives set up in south Wales¹ and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (the Welsh nursery school movement who’s bulk of classes are also in the anglicized areas) receiving £1 million (€1,5 million) in order to teach the language at such an early stage.

¹ In Merthyr Tudful in the south Wales Valleys and in the Vale of Glamorgan near the capital Cardiff

The new initiatives build on the success of language teaching by offering extra curricular activities – clubs, concerts and trips, which are conducted in Welsh – give children an opportunity to become more fluent in the language. The only criticism of this method is that pupils revert to English when they leave the schoolyard.

The initiatives also establish classes to learn the language and meeting places in pubs and cafes, so the learners can practice their language skills. In some areas campaigns have been persuading businesses to use the Welsh language more often. When the learners will see the language in everyday situations, they will be keener to learn it.

In November 2002, the National Assembly announced that the sum of extra £27 million (€40 million) would be available over the period of three years for the language purposes. The Language Board will receive an extra £16 million (€24 million). Those £6 million (€9 million) recently announced are a part of that funding.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, January 14, 2003, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4032>

Updated (April 2003)

GAELIC ON THE AGENDA IN THE SCOTTISH ELECTION

The future of the Gaelic language has emerged as a significant issue in the campaign for these parliamentary elections, which shall be held in May 2003. All main political parties have committed themselves to back legislation giving a secure status to the language in the next session of Parliament.

The Labor Party leader, Jack McConnell promised to put the Gaelic Act on the statute book before this year's National Mod in October.

In 1999 elections, Labor promised to work towards a secure status for Gaelic, but instead the Gaelic Language Act, the Gaelic community in Scotland had to make do with the creation of a new Gaelic Development Board (Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba). However, this time, Labor made a specific commitment in its manifesto, published in both English and Gaelic, to legislate for the language if they are re-elected in May.

“We recognize the importance of Gaelic as a unique part of Scotland’s living national heritage. Through Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba we will secure the future of Gaelic by introducing a national language plan and an action plan to guide the activities of a range of agencies supporting Gaelic. We will introduce a bill to provide for the secure status of the Gaelic language.”

Labor has also promised to invest in Gaelic-medium education, including the provision of more teacher training places, and to support other languages in Scotland.

“Scotland has many other languages. We will prepare a national language strategy to guide the development and support for all of them, including the sign language and ethnic languages.”

The Scottish Liberal Democrats, Labor’s coalition partners in government for the past four years, say they will also bring forward a Languages Act although they do not specify for which languages they want to legislate. Instead the Liberal Democrats manifesto pledges to:

- *Introduce the Languages Bill in Scotland which will give councils and other public bodies a responsibility to draw up a languages plan which reflects the needs of communities*
- *Will place Bòrd na Gàidhlig on a more secure footing by making it a statutory body with responsibility for drawing up a Strategy for Gàidhlig*
- *As a part of a promise to extend foreign languages teaching in primary schools they want to provide teaching facilities in Gaelic and other minority languages where there is a demand.*

The Scottish National Party, the main opposition party in the last Parliament, is promising to build on Mike Russell’s Gaelic Language Bill, which ran out of parliamentary time at the end of the last session, and to legislate not only for Gaelic but also for Scots. Its manifesto, published in a number of languages, including Gaelic says that the Scottish National Party:

“Will introduce a Languages Act giving a secure status for the Gaelic and Scots languages and encouraging community languages. We will build on the Gaelic Language Bill, the hearings on which have brought forward many positive suggestions for change.”

“We will establish Bòrd Gàidhlig na h-Alba in statute and strengthen its ability to persuade public and private bodies to consider creatively their attitude to the language. We will introduce measure to insist the learning of Gaelic, including the learning of Gaelic as a second language in schools and adult learning.”

The Scottish Conservatives, who have published a summary of their manifesto in Gaelic, make no specific commitment to a Language Act promising instead:

- *To ensure that the Gaelic language and culture continues to receive a healthy level of funding*
- *To support the language by putting the Gaelic Board on a statutory basis*

Among the other parties, **the Scottish Socialist Party** is promising to provide Gaelic language lessons for all children and adults who wish to learn the language and to give Gaelic and Scots equal legal status with English. Their manifesto states that they will support a Gaelic Language Act, covering education, broadcasting and public bodies.

The Scottish Green Party says it will enable all schools to offer languages reflecting Scotland's cultural and ethnic diversity, including the Gaelic, British sign language, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Punjabi, and Chinese languages. Although the Green Party's manifesto is not available in Gaelic, it does include a single sentence in this language without an English translation – “S e cùis mhòr glèidhteachas cultair a tha ann an adhartachadh na Gàidhlig ¹” (believed to be a historical reference to the Scottish king Kenneth Mac Alpin).

Source: Eurolang News, Edinburgh, April 14, 2003, by Alex O'Henley, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4206>

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

Updated (January 2001)

CORNISH

The Cornish language in Cornwall enjoys some progress in its re-establishing but still faces a struggle for entire revival. There has been put very little or no government funding effort so far.

Today, there are estimated 300 fluent speakers who use the Cornish language everyday. 2,500 people have a reasonable knowledge, out of the total population of 490,000. Education is problematic, as there is no Cornish medium school or pre-school group. Cornish is taught in primary schools and four secondary schools but the absence of a university in Cornwall has contributed to the lack of development of a tertiary Cornish language level. A local newspaper carries a column in Cornish once a week and there exists also a monthly magazine. Two radio stations use Cornish in their programs.

¹ The progression of Gaelic is of a great importance in the preservation of culture.

Updated (April 2001)

GAELIC

In April, it was announced that after the summer a Gaelic-medium secondary education unit would be set up in Scotland's Central Belt. This signifies the expansion of Gaelic-medium education outside the traditional heartland of the Western Isles and Highlands.

The establishment of the unit would mean that pupils no longer had to travel to other council areas to continue their Gaelic education after leaving primary school. Currently, those North Lanarkshire pupils who wish to continue their secondary studies after their Gaelic medium primary education have to attend schools out of the area.

However, some Gaelic-medium schools have already warned that the further expansion of education through the language could be hampered by a lack of teachers.

A project to make 18,000 hours of sound recordings in Gaelic and Scots available on-line is being planned on the small Scottish island of Tiree. The project will enable people interested in Scottish culture to listen through the Internet to stories, songs, music and factual information. The recordings will be taken from BBC Scotland, The School of Scottish Studies and Campbell Collection, a series of recordings on wax cylinders made in 1935.

Tiree has a population of around 800 people and the Gaelic language is spoken here with a very distinct accent. Tiree was chosen to undertake the pilot project since there is a wealth of varied material from Tiree both in BBC and the School of Scottish Studies, and because there are people to work there.

Updated (February 2002)

One third of Welsh-speaking parents never use the language when talking to their own children, and just four in 10 mothers and fathers who speak Welsh routinely use the language within their family. This is what the British Broadcasting Company, BBC, reports today. A new survey, conducted by Beaufort research for BBC Wales, was presented last night on the Welsh language television channel S4C. It shows that only 65 percent of the 1,004 survey interviewees believe that Welsh would be a living language in just 40 years time.

The survey also revealed a resistance to Welsh as a compulsory subject in secondary schools, and 60 percent of the interviewed believe English-speaking incomers to Welsh heartlands make a valuable contribution to

their communities. According to the BBC, the survey offers evidence contrary to modern perceptions that the language has experienced a miniature renaissance in recent years.

The Welsh language activist group Cymuned will be making a statement in response to the survey.

Updated (May 2002)

WELSH

On May 7, 2002 a group of Welsh speakers who want to publish a Welsh language daily discussed their proposals in Cardiff with members of the National Assembly. The group has received £60,000 (€96,222) of European funding for a survey to find out if Welsh speakers would support such a publication. Already well-respected Beaufort Research has interviewed Welsh speakers from all over the country and according to the results 33 percent of those asked would read a Welsh language daily. This correlates to a potential readership of 90,000. The target for the paper is to have an initial circulation of 10,000, rising to 15,000 in the future.

Welsh is one of few minority languages in Europe not having its own daily newspaper, although there are two weeklies.

Many ask why not a newspaper on the Internet. The answer is that the companies will not advertise on the web and since that's one of the ways to get financial support the group concentrated on publishing a newspaper in the traditional way.

The main source of income will be subscriptions, exactly as in other small newspapers in Europe. However; not subscriptions by post but every subscriber will receive his copy from his local newsagent.

The group wants the newspaper to be independent although they would accept small grants for special sections, such as health, the arts and other.

Source: Eurolang News, <http://www.eurolang.net/>

Updated (July 2002)

WELSH TV CHANNEL

Welsh television channel, S4C, may have to curtail its digital service, which broadcasts 12 hours a day, in order to save money. Over the years, the number of viewers to its main channel has been falling. For

example, in north Wales, the percentage watching its programs at peak viewing time fell from 12.5 percent to 10.9 percent between 2001/2002 and there were similar reductions in other parts of the country. However, due to subtitling in English and putting English programs on during off-peak hours, more than 700,000 regularly tune into S4C, what is 200,000 more than the total number of Welsh-speakers.

Although the majority of S4C's funding comes from the British government, some also comes from advertisements. Fewer viewers thus means less money for the channel. For the last two years, S4C has spent more than it has received.

The plethora of the English language channels available to the Welsh-speaker is blamed for the situation. "It is evident from the viewing figures how difficult it is for a fourth channel, when the other three channels are competing head-to-head in the peak viewing time," says S4C chief executive, Huw Jones. All these channels are able to spend a great deal more on their programs than the Welsh channel.

It is not a matter of viewers not wanting to turn to S4C; they just do not want to miss their favorite English program. Probably it would be better to concentrate on other viewing times and attract viewers that watch English programs during the peak periods.

S4C has already had a meeting with the British Minister of Media and Culture regarding extra funding, but although the minister sympathized with them, no money was forthcoming.

It will be a disappointment for S4C if it has to curtail its digital output as this is seen as the future of broadcasting. Already 43 percent of homes in Wales have digital access. But in order to safeguard the main output of the channel, some digital programs may have to be sacrificed.

Source: <http://www.eurolang.net/>, Eurolang, Bangor, July 8, 2002 by Dafydd Meirion

Updated (August 2002)

WELSH

Following recommendations of the Welsh Language Board, the UK government has accepted the proposal that all government organizations' websites in Wales will be in both English and Welsh language, therefore respecting the provisions of the 1993 Welsh Language Act.

On the other hand, the Welsh Assembly has just published a report on the use of Welsh in which two special commissions on education and

culture have put forward a series of recommendations for the Assembly itself aimed to boost and promote the use of language in the public institutions. According to this report, only 18 percent of the population in Wales speaks the language actively.

Source: Mercator; <http://www.troc.es/ciemen/mercator/index-gb.htm>, news

Updated (November 2002)

RECENT SURVEY SHOWS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WELSH-SPEAKERS

A recently published survey shows that up to 30 percent of the population of Wales (over two million people) can speak the Welsh language. The 1991 Census spoke only about 19 percent. Twenty-one thousand households in Wales were interviewed in 2001/2002 by the Welsh Local Labor Force Survey. This was the first time when the question on language was included.¹

These figures show a substantial increase in the number of Welsh speakers, what is very good news according to Jenny Randerson, the Minister in the National Assembly of Wales with responsibility for the language. Although the Census figures may not prove to be as high, the trend is clearly heading in the right direction, among young people in particular.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, November 14, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3948>

Updated (February 2003)

GAELIC

The number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland has fallen below 60,000 for the first time, but supporters of this language remain upbeat about its prospects in the future. Figures from the 2001 Census, released in February 2003, show that 58,650 people are fluent in Gaelic, what has been an eleven-percent fall since the previous Census in 1991, when 65,978 Gaelic speakers were recorded.

This decrease; however, is not as severe as some had feared and language activists actually are optimistic concerning the future of the

¹ The recent survey asked the question "Can you speak Welsh?," whilst other surveys had asked "Do you speak Welsh?."

language. The base figure rises to 65,000 when you add those, who can read and write Gaelic but are not fluent in it. The 2001 Census also for the first time specified those, who can understand Gaelic but are not able to speak it. This question yielded another 27,000 responses. Thus a total figure of those who can speak, read, write or have some degree of proficiency in the Gaelic language is 92,000.

According to the Scottish Executive Minister with responsibility for Gaelic, Mike Watson, though the decline in numbers is regrettable, the underlying trend is more encouraging. He believes that the only way forward is through young people learning the language and using it as a living language. The task of the newly created Gaelic Development Board is to provide more teachers to meet the demand of Gaelic medium education and to ensure that parents have the right to bilingual education where demand exists.

However, Minister Watson refused once again to back the Gaelic Language Bill, currently making its way through the committee stages in the Scottish Parliament.

Between 1981 and 1991, mainly a sum of £13 million (€19.4 million) of the governmental funding spent on Gaelic education and broadcasting contributed to stop a decline in the number of Gaelic speakers.

Source: Eurolang News, Glasgow, February 13, 2003, by Alex O'Henley, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4093>

WELSH

For the first time in the last hundred years, there has been an increase in the number of Welsh speakers. According to figures released in the 2001 Census, 20.5 percent of the population of Wales can speak the language, up from 18.5 percent in 1991. For those, who said that they understood Welsh, the figures rose to 28.4 percent. In 1991, only 508,000 people spoke Welsh, by now the figure has reached 580,000.

The greatest gains have been achieved in the anglicized southeast Wales - the industrial valleys and in the capital Cardiff due to expansion of Welsh-language schools there. However, in the heartlands in the west, the language shows a decrease because of in-migration of English speakers and the migration of young Welsh speakers to the capital.

While in Cardiff, 10 percent of the population is able to speak the language, in some of the south Wales valleys the figure is as high as 12.5 percent. In the heartland of Gwynedd the figure has fallen from 90 percent of the population speaking Welsh about 50 years ago to 70.1 percent speaking it currently.

The Minister responsible for the language in the Welsh Assembly, Jenny Randerson, is optimistic that the policies and initiatives set out in the National Action Plan for Bilingual Wales will further contribute to increasing the number of Welsh speakers and will create the right atmosphere where the language can grow.

The figures were also welcomed by Rhodri Williams from the Welsh Language Board. According to him it is important to pay tribute to those parents, who have chosen to send their children to Welsh medium schools, even when Welsh is not their home language. He said it is essential to work together to halt any further decline in the western counties.

However, the groups campaigning for the language were not so positive. Huw Lewis from the Welsh Language Society knows that people of Wales must make a clear choice - if the language is to survive, then everything must change. The language can only be safeguarded and developed by implementing far-reaching holistic policies, in fields such as housing, planning, status, education and transport.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, February 17, 2003, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4094>

UK GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS SETTING UP AN IRISH LANGUAGE TV PROGRAM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The UK government has indicated for the first time that it is preparing to set up an Irish language TV program production fund for Northern Ireland. This would give Northern Ireland parity with Wales and Scotland where Welsh and Scottish Gaelic programs are publicly financed.

There had been considerable unease among Irish speakers that Irish language broadcasting had not been mentioned in the Communications Bill going through Westminster at present.

While in Wales up to £100 million (€149 million) is spent on Welsh language broadcasting per year and in Scotland the figure is approximately £10 million (€14.9 million) per year, the sum being mentioned for Northern Ireland is considerably smaller.

Source: Eurolang News, Belfast, February 18, 2003, by Eoghan Ó Néill, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4098>

Updated (March 2003)

FIRST IRISH LANGUAGE DAILY PLANS AN APRIL LAUNCH

The first daily newspaper in the Celtic language will start to be published in Ireland on April 28, 2003. “*Lá*” (Day) will be published in Belfast but the offices will be also in the Conamara and Donegal Gaelacht. The newspaper will be distributed throughout the whole Ireland.

In the period between 1984 and 1992, *Lá* existed as a daily newspaper but since then it has been published as a weekly. The shift to a daily should be financed partly from selling the shares in the paper to Irish language groups at home and abroad.²

Beside the investment of shareholders, *Lá* is hoping to get funding from Foras na Gaeilge, the All Ireland body promoting the Irish language. Foras; however, had its budget cut by €2 million at the end of 2002 so it’s not certain whether it will be able to help *Lá* at this stage.

Lá hopes to secure initial sales of several thousand copies per day.

The Irish language media experienced an unprecedented boom in the last years. Six years ago the Irish language TV station, TG4, was set up and it now employs more than 20 journalists. The Irish radio station, Raidió na Gaeltachta also employs more than 20 journalists. The BBC produces a nightly Irish language radio program from its studio in Belfast, employing 5 people. There are two Irish language weekly newspapers, “*Lá*” and “*Foinse*,” several local Irish radio stations (in Dublin and Belfast), and a number of Irish magazines. The Irish language Internet magazine “BEO” which began just over a year ago has been highly successful and it is sent each month to more than 20,000 subscribers.

Source: Eurolang News, Belfast, February 25, 2003, by Eoghan Ó Néill, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4112>

THE ADVANTAGES OF SPEAKING THE WELSH LANGUAGE

According to Jenny Randerson, the Minister of Culture in the Welsh Assembly, learning Welsh is an important additional skill and an advantage in finding a job. A part of the Assembly’s policy is to increase the number of Welsh-speakers from 21 to 26 percent of the population by 2011. The Assembly has allocated £30 million for this purpose.

Learning the language gives people better understanding of the national culture and the fact that a number of Welsh speakers raises signals

² They have 100 shares, each costing €750

growing national self-confidence. Anyone living in Wales is surrounded by Welsh place-names, has friends with Welsh names, or is otherwise exposed to the language. People would understand the Welsh culture better, if they spoke the language or at least understood some of it.

The Minister believes that bilingual people have a real advantage in terms of learning other foreign languages. Educational researches show that children speaking two languages can learn the third one more easily.

Fluency in Welsh is a very useful skill in the job market, especially in the health services.

Source: Eurolang News, Penygroes, March 12, 2003, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4140>

Updated (April 2003)

CENSUS 2001 AND IRISH SPEAKERS

New figures from the Northern Ireland 2001 Census published at the end of March show that the number of people who have some knowledge of the Irish language increased by 25,487, from 142,003 (9.45 percent of the population) in 1991 to 167,490 (10.4 percent of the population) in 2001.

According to the statistics, Irish is doing exceptionally well in several urban areas, particularly in Belfast. In West Belfast for example, 23.6 percent of citizens claimed to have some knowledge of Irish. More than eleven percent of them said that they could read, speak, write and understand Irish. As for South Belfast, 12.5 percent of citizens have some knowledge of Irish. In North Belfast it is 10.9 percent and in East Belfast 3.1 percent.

It is difficult to compare the last census with the previous one in 1991 because the questions were not the same but it is obvious that the language is becoming more significant for those who can use it.

Irish language groups welcomed the Census figures; however, they confirmed that government has fallen behind in providing services for the Irish language community. No governmental department provides significant services in the Irish language. The Irish organizations themselves also have to focus their attention on the large number of Irish speakers and provide for them social, cultural and economic life in Irish rivaling that available for them in English.

According to the Census figures, it is easier for Catholics in the North of Ireland to identify with the Irish language than for Protestants who see themselves as British. Twenty-two percent of Catholics have some knowledge of Irish compared to just one percent of Protestants though their number has increased from 3,922 in 1991 to 7,388 in 2001.

Many Protestants are attracted by Irish nationalism and the language is a way to exercise that interest. One of the biggest problems; however, is that few Protestant schools provide Irish language classes.

The Census figures are now being considered by DCAL, the government agency in Northern Ireland responsible for the language policy.

Source: Eurolang News, Belfast, March 26, 2003, by Eoghan Ó Néill, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4171>

VICTORY FOR THE WELSH LANGUAGE PRESSURE GROUP IN THE HOUSING MARKET

The Welsh language pressure group Cymuned, after five months of campaigning, has reached an agreement with Beresford Adams, one of the largest estate agents in north Wales, regarding selling of houses in the Welsh-language heartlands to outsiders.

In order to give local people a chance in the housing market, Beresford Adams has agreed on the following:

- 1) House sellers will be offered the choice of marketing their property according to the Cymuned's Ethical Code of Practice.

According to the Cymuned's Code of Ethical Practice, the property is advertised locally for the first three months to give local buyers a fair opportunity to purchase it, and only then it is advertised outside the area or on the Internet.

- 2) All window cards advertising property in the Welsh-speaking areas will be bilingual.
- 3) All staff in the North Wales will be offered Welsh lessons at the company's cost.

Cymuned will ask other estate agents operating in Welsh-speaking areas to adopt their Code as well.

However, the price of the properties being way above what local people can afford causes another problem which can be solved only by

legislation or an improvement in the economy of the Welsh-speaking areas.

Cymuned has also asked that only the Welsh names should be used for the highest mountain and mountain range in Wales. It wants the names Snowdon and Snowdonia to be replaced by the Welsh names Yr Wyddfa (the High Tomb) and Eryri (the Place of the Eagles).

Yr Wyddfa and Eryri have been used by the local community for nearly 1,500 years while Snowdon and Snowdonia only began to be used from the 19th Century onwards.

Over the Easter holidays, as a part of their campaign, Cymuned members handed out leaflets to draw attention of the Welsh mountain's visitors to Wales' unique language and culture. The leaflets reminded the people that if they decide to settle in a Welsh-speaking area, they should learn the language.

The reactions to using only the Welsh language have been favorable so far. While most see it as a positive selling point to market the area, a few are afraid that this could confuse the potential tourists.

Source: Eurolang News, Penygroes, April 28, 2003, by Dafydd Meirion, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4216>

Updated (June 2003)

IRISH

There are two distinct types of Irish medium education.

(1) In Gaeltacht areas (except in a single instance of a primary gaelscoil) the education system at first and second level is and has always been a part of the mainstream state system. The only difference is that the medium of instruction here is Irish, whereas in the state system it is English. Maintaining Irish in this position is; however, hindered by many factors outside the school control.

Many Gaeltacht schools are de facto becoming more bilingual, because Irish, due to a series of ongoing societal changes, gradually loses ground as the dominant language. The linguistic background of pupils is now very varied.

Irish Medium Education - Gaeltacht		
1999-2000	Schools	Pupils
Primary	110	8,035
Post-Primary	20	3,443
Total	130	11,483

2) In the 1960s, after the perceived lack of success of state language policy since 1922, several changes were introduced. In education this provoked largely a parent-initiated voluntary movement through two organizations, one for preschoolers (Na Naíonraí Gaelacha later a co-partner of An Comhchoiste Réamhscolaíochta) and the other for primary and post primary education (Gaelscoileanna). Groups founded by the pre-school movement are all over the country, including the Gaeltacht, but they remain outside the formal educational system. However, a growing recognition of the importance of early childhood education, as well as the need for childcare, has meant more public admission of their contribution, particularly through the National Children's Strategy of the Department of Health and Children and the National Forum on Early Childhood Education.

In addition to these two main categories, two other types of Irish medium education also exist. At primary level, there are several Irish medium model schools (modhscoil) directly under Departmental aegis. At primary and post-primary level (outside Gaeltacht regions) there exist a variety of patterns, e.g. a curricular area or a class group may be taught entirely through Irish (almost 31 percent of the primary sector reported such an approach) or some subjects may be taught through Irish.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Outside the official system, a variety of establishments, some funded by the Health Boards, cater for children under four. Among these, some playgroups and some St. Nicholas Montessori schools consider their approach as bilingual, when they offer songs, stories and rhymes in Irish.

Naíonraí, Irish medium playgroups under the aegis of the voluntary organization An Comhchoiste Réamhscolaíochta, are directed mainly at 3 (4)-year olds. Their intake is almost predominantly from English speaking families where parents have made a specific language choice in favor of Irish (except in Gaeltacht areas, where the linguistic background is more varied). The aim of the Naíonra is total development of a

preschooler through an Irish language immersion program structured around the child's communicative needs.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Primary education caters for children from four to twelve. Two infant classes are normally an integral part of the primary school.

Irish is offered as a subject to all pupils in recognized schools from the age of four (in Junior Infants) to the age of seventeen (in the final year of secondary education). It is a part of the core curriculum during the years of compulsory schooling (between six and fifteen).

In schools, where Irish is not a medium of instruction at least some form of integration between Irish and other subjects of the curriculum exists, as reported by up to 31 percent of primary schools in the latest available statistics (1998/1999).

The Revised Curriculum (2000) recommends at least 4 hours of teaching per week for the first language and 3.5 hours for the second one (3 hours and 2.5 hours respectively for "Infant" classes which have a shorter school day).

However, generally both quantity and quality of Irish teaching in primary schools varies greatly. Pupils in certain categories may be allowed exemption from Irish classes (e.g. years spent abroad, foreigners, attested learning difficulties). The number of such exemptions stands at 1,234 for the year 1999-2000.

The first Irish medium schools were founded at the beginning of this century in Dublin.¹ Scoil Bhríde is still functioning as a recognized primary school, the first gaelscoil. Existing model schools came under the aegis of the native government after independence.

In April 1922, the (then) Provisional Government decreed that Irish is the medium of instruction for Infant classes. This was gradually extended and reached its apex in the 1940s. However, the reactions from teachers and the public, together with a negative outcome of the research in 1967, led eventually to the reduced use of Irish. Parallel with this, parents began a movement for Irish medium education for their children. The first such school began in Dublin in 1952, the second one in 1967, and the development has not halted yet.

¹ Scoil Éanna for boys by Patrick Pearse in 1908 and Scoil Bhríde for girls, by a group in 1917.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Irish is offered as a part of the core curriculum at both Junior and Senior Cycle. Almost 80.5 percent of 17 year-olds and 63.2 percent of 18 year-olds are retained in Senior Cycle.

The rules state that

(a) the curriculum must include certain subject areas, one of which is Irish

(b) the Leaving Certificate course for recognized pupils must include not less than 5 out of 24 specified subjects, one of which shall be Irish

While the majority follows the established Leaving Certificate course, two other alternatives (the Leaving Certificate Vocational Program and the Leaving Certificate Applied) may be taken if approved by the Minister. Both must include courses in Irish. It is; however, no longer mandatory to pass the examination in Irish in order to receive the Certificate in the entire Leaving Certificate examination.

All recognized second level students thus have exposure to the teaching of Irish, depending on the school. There is no distinction made in the prescribed courses for Junior and Senior Cycle between Irish as the first and second language, although regional differences are acknowledged. The same course is followed in all schools.

Second level Irish medium education includes Gaeltacht schools (given above), some schools which have traditionally taught all subjects through Irish and, increasingly, schools established to cater for the output of parent led primary immersion education. Both the latter now come under the gaelscoileanna category. There is also a small number of schools, which have over the years reduced their coverage of subjects taught through Irish.

HIGHER EDUCATION

There are four separate sectors in higher education: universities, institutes of technology, colleges for teacher education and private institutions.

There are seven universities, all of them operating under the latest Universities Act of 1997, which either amended or repealed sections of earlier Acts. This legislation gave a separate autonomous university status to the existing colleges of the National University of Ireland (NUI).

Irish is offered as an academic discipline and also as a part of teaching methodology in education course at the NUI. In the University of Limerick (UL), Irish is offered in the School of Languages and in the training of teachers. These courses are taught in Irish. At Dublin City University (DCU) in the School of Business Studies courses in Finance, Computers and Enterprise are offered through Irish.

The constituent universities of the NUI have a general matriculation requirement for entry that includes a basic competence in Irish. Extra points for entry to the third level institutions are awarded to the students answering examination papers through the medium of Irish. This practice was considered discriminatory and the Commission proposed to end it; however, the Minister did not accept this proposal.

Though the Institutes of Technology do not have a general Irish requirement for entry, some courses require competence in Irish, while some courses are conducted totally through Irish. Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) has a journalism course in Irish.

The Universities Act (1997) contains several supportive references to the Irish language and culture. Part III, Chapter I, 12 (e) guarantees promotion of the official languages of the State, with special regard to Irish.

The Higher Education Authority Act (1971) places a general duty on the Authority, whereby it shall bear constantly in mind the restoration of the Irish language and national culture and shall endeavor to promote these national aims.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Irish language in education in the Republic of Ireland, 2000,
http://www1.f.a.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regionale_dossier_irish_in_ireland.htm

WELSH

Historically, educational legislation in Wales was centrally determined by Parliament in London. The 1988 Education Reform Act and all subsequent acts legislate for England and Wales, normally as one entity. This Act defined the curriculum, governance and administration of maintained or state schools in England and Wales.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Welsh medium early years' education is offered in Wales through Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (MYM, the Welsh medium nursery association), which was established in 1971. It provides Welsh language immersion teaching

and support for children from Welsh and English speaking homes (children under five years old).

Two groups, Cylchoedd Ti a Fi and Cylchoedd Meithrin, provide early education in Welsh with the aim to give every child in Wales under statutory school age the opportunity to take an advantage of such linguistic experience. These groups are subsidized by MYM, which receives substantial funding annually from the Welsh Language Board. MYM offers so called “Extra Hands” scheme for pupils with special needs and also organizes training for staff.

Cylch Ti a Fi (literally “You and I Circle”) is a voluntary bilingual playgroup, which offers parents and guardians the opportunity to enjoy playing with their children and socializing in an informal Welsh atmosphere. Activities promote both the development of children from birth onwards and non-Welsh speaking parents are given the opportunity to learn the language with their children on a “Welsh for the Family” scheme. Elementary stories are presented, in addition to Welsh songs and lullabies and simple expressions to use at home.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Generally, in Welsh-speaking schools, English is introduced at the age of seven when pupils learn how to read, write and use the language correctly. From year 3 (age 8) onwards, English is taught to the same extent as the other subjects, but Welsh is the main medium of instruction in most other subjects.

In general, during the early years of schooling, pupils from non-Welsh homes follow language immersion courses with much emphasis on oral development to achieve fluency quickly. English is introduced at the age of seven. A few authorities teach bilingually from the age of 3 or 4 in order to ensure that pupils are fully bilingual by the age of eleven. By the age of eleven, the vast majority of pupils have acquired all language skills commensurate with their age and ability.

By 1998-1999, over 25 percent of children in Wales were attending Welsh-medium schools. The majority of these pupils came from non-Welsh speaking homes. By 2000, there were 445 Welsh medium or bilingual primary schools in Wales and 51,600 primary pupils were taught through the medium of Welsh. Further 6,146 pupils studied some their subjects through the medium of Welsh and 227,668 pupils learned Welsh as a second language.

Primary Schools Data 2000/2001	
Primary schools having classes where Welsh is the sole or main medium of instruction	445
Total number of primary schools in Wales	1,660
Classes where Welsh is used as a teaching medium as a part of the curriculum	246
Number of pupils in classes where Welsh is the sole or main medium of instruction	51,600
Number of pupils in classes where Welsh is used as a teaching medium for part of the curriculum	6,146
Total number of primary school pupils in Wales	291,687
Number of primary school pupils taught Welsh as a second language	227,668
Number of full and part-time primary teachers teaching through the medium of Welsh	2,762
Number of full and part time primary teachers teaching Welsh as a second language	7,907

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Secondary schools are funded according to a formula set by the local education authorities and approved by the National Assembly for Wales. This means that the distribution of the funding varies slightly in each of the 22 authorities.

Welsh is either a core subject or a compulsory foundation subject in all schools. Most Welsh medium schools teach the majority of subjects up to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) level through the medium of Welsh or bilingually. Although traditionally some Welsh medium schools taught Math and Science in English, many are changing this policy at present.

According to the Assembly, Welsh-speaking secondary school is a school where more than six subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh. In schools, which are not defined as Welsh-speaking schools, up to five subjects may be taught through the medium of Welsh. However, in the majority of these schools Welsh is taught only as a second language with no subjects taught through the medium of Welsh.

In 2001, the majority of pupils undertook and accredited an external examination such as the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) or the General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) in Welsh.

One of the effects of the 1993 Welsh Language Act has been to create a need for bilingualism in the workforce across Wales. Studying Welsh up to the age of 16 will enable all the pupils to play a valuable part in bilingual future of Wales.

In 2001, out of 229 secondary schools in Wales, only 20 taught Welsh as a first language, 51 taught Welsh both as a first and second language and the remaining 158 schools taught Welsh as a second language. A total of 52 secondary schools were defined as Welsh-speaking schools, with another 9 schools teaching a limited range of subjects through the medium of Welsh.

Secondary Schools Data 2000/2001	
Number of Welsh medium/bilingual secondary schools	52
Total number of secondary schools in Wales	229
Number of Welsh medium/bilingual secondary school pupils	36,289
Total number of secondary school pupils in Wales	204,158
Number of secondary school pupils taught Welsh as a first language	25,072
Number of secondary schools where Welsh is taught as a first language	20
Number of secondary schools where Welsh is taught both as a first and second language	51
Number of secondary school pupils taught Welsh as a second language	122,112
Number of secondary schools where Welsh is taught as a second language	158
Number of secondary teachers teaching through the medium of Welsh (excluding 305 teachers of Welsh as a first language)	1,549
Number of secondary teachers teaching Welsh as a second language	694

HIGHER EDUCATION

There is a great variety in the provision of Higher Education in Wales. Until recently, the University of Wales, with its five colleges at Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff, Swansea and Lampeter provided most degree courses in Wales; the School of Medicine added another field of graduate and post graduate training. However, as a result of the changes

effected in 1993, other colleges, which were previously providing Certificate or Diploma courses, became degree-awarding institutions.

Consequently, the former Polytechnic of Wales became the University of Glamorgan; and other new Universities were established (the University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC); North East Wales Institute (NEWI), University of Wales College Newport (UWCN), Higher Education Institute Swansea, Trinity College Carmarthen, the Welsh College of Music and Drama).

Welsh medium provision in higher education has tended to develop only in certain institutions. At the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, University of Wales, Bangor, and Trinity College Carmarthen Welsh is offered both as a subject and as a medium of instruction. Since the 50s, the University of Wales has been under pressure to establish a Welsh medium college within the University. Rather than undertaking this course of action, the University decided to fund a number of lecturing posts in its colleges which would be specifically for teaching through the medium of Welsh.

In 1980, in order to improve the quality and range of courses available the University Board for Welsh Medium Teaching was established. This Board was to decide how best to spend the extra funding which became available for Welsh medium teaching. When the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales was founded in 1992, the Board lost much of its power in making funding decisions. During the mid 1990s a premium was paid to higher education establishments for increasing their Welsh medium provision. In real terms; however, there was very little progress as only two establishments were able to demonstrate this increase.

The new University Board for Welsh-medium Teaching was relaunched in 1997, and now it represents not only the University of Wales but also the University of Glamorgan and other colleges in Wales. The new Board concentrated its efforts initially on persuading the Higher Education Council of Wales and the institutions of higher education to contribute a sum of money to establish a new post, which would control the development of bilingualism in the sector. In 2000, an officer was appointed to undertake this task.

Source: Mercator Education, Regional Dossiers, The Welsh language in education in the United Kingdom, 2001,
http://www1.fa.knaw.nl/mercator/regionale_dossiers/regional_dossier_welsh_in_uk.htm

Updated (July 2003)

IRELAND: ONE IN FIVE USES IRISH DAILY

One person in five speaks the Irish language on a daily basis according to new statistics released by the Irish Central Statistics Office. Three quarters of these speakers are at school. Sixty-seven percent of the surveyed people said that even they had the ability to speak Irish they rarely did so. They admitted that if they spoke the language, it would probably be only on a weekly basis.

Across the country 1.57 million people can speak Irish fluently. In 1996, it was 1.43 million. The largest number of speakers over the age of three is in Galway. In Galway city the proportion of speakers has increased to 50.5 percent.

The Gaeltacht areas as a whole took a fall when the number of speakers had fallen dramatically since the previous Census. In 1996, 60 percent of Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht used Irish daily; in 2002, this number fell to 56 percent.

The area with the worst decline in language terms was Waterford where the amount of speakers fell from 86.5 percent to 77.7 percent. Dublin (34.6 percent) and County Louth (36.3 percent) are considered to be problematic areas as well. The only area where a small increase was revealed is County Meath (from 59.5 to 60.6 percent).²

Source: Eurolang News, Baile Atha Cliath/Dublin, July 16, 2003, by Michelle NicPhaidin

<http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4327>

Did the country ratify any international treaty dealing with the protection of minorities?

Updated (January 2001)

EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES

In March the British Government has ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which will come into force on July 1, 2001. The Charter commits the government to protect and preserve indigenous minority languages on the territory of the United Kingdom.

² Population changes and the migrant influx were not taken into account while compiling the statistics.

Welsh, Gaelic and Irish (spoken in Northern Ireland) will be granted the highest level of protection under Part 3 of the Charter, which obliges the government to outline concrete measures to promote the languages in the field of education, the courts, public services, media, cultural activity, economic and social life and cross-borders activities.

Scots and Ulster-Scots will be protected under Part 2 of the Charter, which offers a lower level of protection and recognition. The UK Government will be required to promote and assist Scots and they will have to issue a yearly report showing what they have done.

A great disappointment is nonrecognition of Cornish despite hopes of Cornish language activists that the language was about to gain a significant boost after its inclusion in the Charter.

Updated (August 2002)

CORNISH

It is close that Cornish (Kernewek) will be also protected under Part II of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. An announcement from the UK's Minister for the Regions is expected in the next few days.

The Part II of the Council of Europe's document will give Cornish recognition so much needed and the provision that a resolute action will be taken to promote the language.

The inclusion comes after a long campaign of the activists and the Cornish Language Board.

The representatives of the Cornish NGOs believe that with the support of the institutions from the UK and Europe, the Cornish language can be further developed so that it can become a part of everyday life in Cornwall. It should no longer be derided or belittled in its own country.

According to Jane Ninnis from the Cornish Language Fellowship, one of the goals will be to make Cornish available for those who wish to learn it. This; however, means to develop a coherent infrastructure for Kernewek in education, to form adult immersion courses and to train teachers to teach Kernewek in schools and colleges.

The Secretariat of the Charter has not so far given any comments on the likelihood that Cornish will be included, as an official statement of the UK Government has to be made.

MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHARTER

Language activists representing Scottish Gaelic, Scots and Irish language communities criticized the UK Government for not using the Charter as an active language development tool.

Speaking about the Charter, a spokesperson for POBAL, a Belfast-based Irish language NGO, explained that they are particularly concerned that government departments and other public bodies view the Charter as a “checklist” of existing provision, rather than an opportunity for further development. They believe that the Charter demands a more positive response and that all relevant public bodies must be called on to enhance provision for Irish speakers.

The majority of services were already in place prior to the ratification of the Charter. Thus, there has been no significant increase in provisions for Irish speakers since the Charter came into effect last July.

Source: Eurolang, www.eurolang.net, Dùn Eideann, Edinburgh, Brussels, July 22 and 24, 2002, by Davyth Hicks and Eva Blässar

Updated (November 2002)

CORNISH INCLUSION IN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES CONFIRMED

The UK Government confirmed on November 5, 2002 that Cornish is to be included in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, under the Part II. The language will thereby join Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish, Scots and Ulster Scots, which are protected and promoted languages within the United Kingdom.

Currently estimates speak about 300 fluent Cornish speakers who use the language everyday with further 2,500 who have a reasonable knowledge of it, out of a total population of 490,000 people.

Source: Eurolang News, Truro, Cornwall, November 6, 2002, by Davyth Hicks, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=3916>

What else can be found about languages and minorities?

Updated (January 2001)

IRISH IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Ireland body with responsibility for promoting the Irish language has called for a fund for the Irish language broadcasting in Northern Ireland, similar to that which already exists for Gaelic in Scotland.

ULSTER SCOTS

The language is spoken in Northern Ireland and it seems that it is finally achieving recognition, which had been deserved for a long time. The Ulster Scots language movement published a development plan with the strategy to increase an understanding of the language and its use. The Agency will embark upon a major survey of public attitudes to Ulster Scots.

SCOTS

The Scottish National Dictionary, the main archive of the Scots language, is to be updated with new words compiled over the last 25 years. The first compilation was done in 1976. The Scottish Heritage Lottery Fund is supporting the new dictionary with a 90,000-pounds grant.

WELSH

In February the British Government tabled a motion to approve the use of Welsh language in the Parliament of Westminster by the Welsh Grand Committee. Currently, members of the Welsh Committee can only use their language in internal meetings and in their investiture oath provided that they also say it in English.

Updated (December 2001)

MANX

The 2001 Census results on the Isle of Man show another increase in the number of Manx speakers. For the first time in 80 years, more than 2% of the population of the island can speak Manx. The number of persons who can speak, read or write Manx is 1,689 (2.2% of the population) compared with 741 in 1991 (1%), 284 in 1971 (0.5%) and only 165 (0.34%) in 1961.

The most encouraging development is the strongest growth in numbers of young people (46% or 784 of speakers were recorded under the age of

19). This represents a significant 20% increase of Manx speakers under 19-year-olds since the 1991 Census. It shows very clearly the tremendous success of both the Department of Education and the pre-school group Moinjer Veggey's development of Manx Gaelic education over the past decade.

Manx National Heritage and the Manx Heritage Foundation's Manx Language Development Officer, Phil Gawne says that these figures showed clearly parents' and children's willingness to learn national language. He also emphasizes that the Government was very supportive of the development of the Manx language, particularly over the past five years.

Updated (February 2002)

The Arts Council of Wales has decided to contribute £250,000 (404,503 €) to create a Welsh language theatre company that will commission new plays to be performed throughout Wales.

In order to finance the new company, the main theatre company in Wales, Cwmni Theatr Gwynedd which is based in north Wales, will lose its grant of £200,000 (323,552 €). Nevertheless, this development should be welcomed, says Wynford Ellis Owen, a leading actor, director and scriptwriter who has performed with Cwmni Theatr Gwynedd.

Updated (September 2002)

WALES

A northwest Wales town council asked the National Assembly of Wales to adopt a word "Cymru" as the official name for the country instead of Wales. Cymru is the word used by Welsh-speakers since the 6th Century and means "land of friends or comrades." Wales is the Anglo-Saxon word meaning "land of other people or foreigners."

The idea came from a councilor Alwyn Gruffudd, a leader of Porthmadog town council. According to him, the country is finally mature enough to make this important step.

More and more use is being made of the name Cymru. The Welsh football team playing in Finland on September 7 displayed it on their tracksuits, many Welsh sportsmen used it in the recent British Commonwealth Games and a lot of companies have it in their names rather than Wales.

The proposal is to use Cymru officially, but people can, if they wish, use the word Wales as well.

Source: Eurolang News, Bangor, September 12, 2002, by Dafydd Meirion, www.eurolang.net

APPENDIX A

MAP OF THE UNITED KINGDOM



APPENDIX B

WELSH LANGUAGE ACT 1993

(1993 Chapter c. 38)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Part I

THE BOARD

1. Establishment of the Board
2. Membership of the Board
3. Functions of the Board
4. Supplementary provisions about the Board

Part II

WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEMES

Duty to prepare schemes

5. Duty of notified public bodies to prepare schemes
6. Meaning of "public body"
7. Notices to public bodies
8. Objections to time limits for submitting schemes

Guidelines as to form and content of Schemes

9. Duty to issue guidelines
10. Approval of guidelines
11. Revision of guidelines
12. Preparation and approval of schemes

Preparation of schemes

13. Consultation on preparation of schemes
14. Approval or imposition of schemes

Revision etc of schemes

15. Periodic revision of schemes
16. Amendment of schemes

Compliance with schemes

17. Investigations
18. Complaints of non-compliance
19. Reports on investigations
20. Directions by Secretary of State

The Crown

21. Persons acting on behalf of the Crown

Part III

MISCELLANEOUS

Welsh in legal proceedings

22. Use of Welsh in legal proceedings
23. Oaths and affirmations
24. Provision of interpreters

Statutory names, forms etc

25. Powers to give Welsh names to statutory bodies etc
26. Powers to prescribe Welsh forms
27. Provisions supplementary to sections 25 and 26
28. Industrial and provident societies
29. Credit unions

Companies

30. Documents relating to Welsh companies
31. Publicity for limited liability status of Welsh companies

Charities

32. Registered charities
33. Statement of charitable status

Supplementary

34. Notices
35. Repeals and consequential amendments
36. Commencement
37. Short title

Schedule 1: The Board

Schedule 2: Repeals

An Act to establish a Board having the function of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language, to provide for the preparation by public bodies of schemes giving effect to the principle 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, to make further provision relating to the Welsh language, to repeal certain spent enactments relating to Wales, and for connected purposes. [21st October 1993]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Part I

THE BOARD

Establishment of the Board

1. There shall be a body corporate to be known as Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg or the Welsh Language Board.

Membership of the Board

2. (1) The Board established under section 1 above (referred to in this Act as "the Board") shall consist of not more than fifteen members appointed by the Secretary of State.

(2) In exercising his power of appointment under subsection (1) above the Secretary of State shall have regard to the desirability of securing that, within the Board's membership, there are reflected both the varying extent to which the Welsh language is used by those living in Wales, and the range of interests of the persons to whom the Board will offer advice.

Functions of the Board

3. (1) The Board shall have the function of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, the Board shall in carrying out the function mentioned there—

(a) advise the Secretary of State on matters concerning the Welsh language;

(b) advise persons exercising functions of a public nature on the ways in which effect may be given to the principle 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;

(c) advise those and other persons providing services to the public on the use of the Welsh language in their dealings with the public in Wales.

(3) Subject to the following provisions, the Board may do anything which is incidental or conducive to the performance of its functions, and may in particular—

(a) make grants and loans and give guarantees;

(b) make charges for the provision of advice or other services;

(c) accept gifts of money or other property.

(4) The Board shall not—

(a) make a grant or loan,

(b) give a guarantee, or

(c) acquire or dispose of any interest in land,

except with the approval of the Secretary of State given with the consent of the Treasury.

Supplementary provisions about the Board

4. (1) The Board shall comply with any general or special directions given to it by the Secretary of State, and shall give him such information about the exercise of its functions as he may require.

(2) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the Board.

Part II

WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEMES

Duty to prepare schemes

Duty of notified public bodies to prepare schemes

5. (1) Every public body to which a notice is given under section 7 below and which—

(a) provides services to the public in Wales, or

(b) exercises statutory functions in relation to the provision by other public bodies of services to the public in Wales, shall prepare a scheme specifying the measures which it proposes to take, for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2) below, as to the use of the Welsh language in connection with the provision of those services, or of such of them as are specified in the notice.

(2) The purpose referred to in subsection (1) above is that of giving effect, so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable, to the principle 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.

(3) In preparing a scheme under this Part of this Act a public body shall have regard to any guidelines issued by the Board under section 9 below.

Meaning of "public body"

6. (1) In this Part of this Act "public body" means—

- (a) a county council, district council or community council;
- (b) a joint committee of two or more bodies within paragraph (a) above;
- (c) a joint board of which the members are two or more bodies within paragraph (a) above;
- (d) a police authority;
- (e) a fire authority constituted by a combination scheme under the 1947 c. 41 .Fire Services Act 1947;
- (f) a health authority within the meaning of the 1977 c. 49 . National Health Service Act 1977;
- (g) a National Health Service trust constituted under Part I of the 1990 c. 19 .National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990;
- (h) a Family Health Services Authority;
- (i) a Community Health Council established in accordance with section 20 of the National Health Service Act 1977;
- (j) the Further Education Funding Council for Wales;
- (k) the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- (l) the governors of a county school, voluntary school, maintained special school or grant-maintained school (within the meaning of the Education Acts 1944 to 1992);
- (m) a further education corporation established under section 15 or 16 of the 1992 c. 13 .Further and Higher Education Act 1992;
- (n) a higher education corporation established under section 121 or 122 of the 1988 c. 40 .Education Reform Act 1988;
- (o) any person (whether or not a body corporate or unincorporate)—

(i) who appears to the Secretary of State to be exercising functions of a public nature, or

(ii) all or substantially all of whose activities appear to the Secretary of State to be conducted under an agreement, or in accordance with arrangements, made with a public body within paragraphs (a) to (n) or sub-paragraph (i) above or a person acting as servant or agent of the Crown,

and who is specified, or is of a description of persons specified, by order made by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this Part of this Act.

(2) The power to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Notices to public bodies

7. (1) The Board may give a notice in writing under this section to any public body.

(2) A notice under subsection (1) above shall—

(a) state that the public body to which the notice is given is required to prepare a scheme in accordance with section 5 above;

(b) specify a date before which that body is required to submit the scheme to the Board;

(c) inform that body of its rights of objection under section 8(1) below.

(3) The Board shall give a copy of the current guidelines issued under section 9 below to any public body to which it gives a notice under subsection (1) above.

(4) Different notices may be given to a public body under this section in respect of different services.

Objections to time limits for submitting schemes

8. (1) A person to whom the Board has given a notice under section 7 above may by notice in writing to the Board object to the date specified in the notice under section 7 as the date before which the scheme is to be submitted to the Board.

(2) A notice under this section shall be given within such time as may be specified by the Board in the notice given by it under section 7 above.

(3) A notice under this section shall give the reasons for any objection to which it relates.

(4) On considering an objection made in accordance with this section, the Board may either dismiss it or propose an extension of the time limit concerned.

(5) If the Board proposes an extension of the time limit and the objector agrees to the proposal, the notice under section 7 above shall have effect with the substitution of the agreed date.

(6) If the Board dismisses the objection or the objector does not agree to a proposal made by the Board and, in either case, the objection is not withdrawn, the Board shall refer the objection to the Secretary of State.

(7) The Board shall, on referring an objection to the Secretary of State, send him—

(a) a copy of the notice under section 7,

(b) a copy of the notice given by the objector under this section, and

(c) a statement of the Board's reasons for its decisions on the objection.

(8) On a reference under this section the Secretary of State may confirm a decision of the Board to dismiss the objection, or may direct that the notice under section 7 above shall have effect with the substitution of a later date for the date referred to in subsection (1) above (and that later date may be the same as or later than any date proposed by the Board under this section).

Guidelines as to form and content of schemes

Duty to issue guidelines

9. (1) The Board shall issue guidelines as to the form and content of schemes to which this Part of this Act applies.

(2) No guidelines shall be issued by the Board under this section unless a draft of them has been approved by the Secretary of State.

(3) The Board shall arrange for any guidelines issued under this section to be published in such manner as it thinks fit.

Approval of guidelines

10. As soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act the Board shall prepare a draft of any guidelines that it proposes to issue under section 9 above and shall send copies of the draft to—

- (a) such persons likely to be required to prepare schemes, and
- (b) such organizations representative of members of the public who may be affected by the schemes,
- (c) as it considers appropriate.

(2) After considering any representations made to it about the draft guidelines and making any amendments that it considers appropriate, the Board shall send a report on the representations and a copy of the draft to the Secretary of State.

(3) After considering the Board's report and the draft guidelines, the Secretary of State may approve the draft, either unamended or with such amendments as he thinks fit.

(4) The Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament a copy of any draft guidelines received by him from the Board, with any amendments made by him under subsection (3) above.

(5) If either House of Parliament passes a resolution requiring the draft to be withdrawn, the Board shall prepare a draft in substitution for the one to which the resolution relates; and this section shall apply in relation to the substituted draft as it applies in relation to the original.

(6) No resolution shall be passed by either House of Parliament under subsection (5) above after the expiration of the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the draft was laid before that House; but for the purposes of this subsection no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.

Revision of guidelines

11. The Board shall at such intervals as it thinks fit revise the guidelines issued by it under section 9 above, and that section and

section 10 above shall apply in relation to the revised guidelines as they apply in relation to the guidelines first issued.

Preparation and approval of schemes

Preparation of schemes

12. (1) A public body to which the Board has given a notice under section 7 above shall submit a scheme to the Board before the date specified in the notice.

(2) A scheme shall include provisions specifying—

(a) a time-table for giving effect to the measures proposed in the scheme;

(b) the ways in which the public body will ensure that the scheme is publicised.

Consultation on preparation of schemes

13. (1) A public body preparing a scheme for submission to the Board shall carry out such consultations as may be appropriate in order to ascertain views representative of both Welsh-speaking and other members of the public who may be affected by the scheme.

(2) A public body shall comply with any directions given to it by the Board in connection with the performance of its duty under subsection (1) above.

Approval or imposition of schemes

14. (1) If a scheme appears to the Board to be satisfactory, either as it is submitted to the Board or with modifications agreed between the Board and the public body submitting it, the Board shall approve the scheme.

(2) If—

(a) no scheme is submitted to the Board before the date specified in the notice under section 7 above, or such later date as the Board may allow, or

(b) a scheme has been submitted before that date (or that later date) but has not been approved by the Board,

the Board, or in a case within paragraph (b) above either the Board or the public body submitting the scheme, may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.

(3) On a reference under subsection (2) above, the Secretary of State may, in a case within paragraph (a) of that subsection, request the public body concerned to submit a scheme to the Board before a date specified by the Secretary of State; and if he does so, this Part of this Act shall apply as if that date were substituted for the date specified by virtue of section 7(2)(b) above.

(4) On a reference under subsection (2) above, the Secretary of State may, in a case within paragraph (b) of that subsection, request the Board and the public body concerned to try to reach agreement on the terms of a scheme before a date specified by the Secretary of State; and if he does so he shall not exercise his powers under subsection (5) below before that date.

(5) On a reference under subsection (2) above, the Secretary of State may in any case himself decide upon the terms of a scheme; and if he does so—

(a) he shall send a copy of the scheme to the Board and to the public body concerned, and

(b) this Part of this Act shall then apply as if the scheme had been submitted by the body and approved by the Board.

Revision etc of schemes

Periodic revision of schemes

15. (1) At any time after the Board has in accordance with section 11 above issued revised guidelines under section 9 above, it may by notice in writing to any public body whose scheme it has approved require that body to review the scheme and submit to the Board a statement of its conclusions.

(2) After receiving a statement under subsection (1) above, the Board may by notice in writing require the public body to submit a revised scheme to the Board before such date as may be specified in the notice.

(3) Sections 12 to 14 above shall with the necessary modifications apply where a notice is given under subsection (2) above as they apply where a notice is given under section 7 above.

Amendment of schemes

16. (1) Where a scheme prepared by a public body has been approved by the Board, either the public body or the Board may at any time by notice in writing to the other propose amendments to the scheme.

(2) The Board shall not exercise the power conferred by subsection (1) above except where it is satisfied that amendments of the scheme are appropriate because of changes in the functions of the public body or in the circumstances in which those functions are carried out.

(3) If the amendments proposed are agreed between the public body and the Board, either as proposed or with modifications, the scheme shall thereafter have effect subject to the amendments.

(4) If the amendments are not agreed, either the public body or the Board may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.

(5) On a reference under subsection (4) above, the Secretary of State may request the Board and the public body concerned to try to reach agreement on the amendments before a date specified by the Secretary of State; and if he does so he shall not exercise his powers under subsection (6) below before that date.

(6) On a reference under subsection (4) above, the Secretary of State may—

(a) determine that no amendments should be made, or

(b) himself decide upon the amendments to be made to the scheme (which may be the amendments proposed, either with or without modifications, or other amendments).

(7) Where in accordance with subsection (6) above the Secretary of State decides upon the amendments to be made to a scheme—

(a) he shall send a copy of the amendments to the Board and to the public body concerned, and

(b) the scheme shall thereafter have effect subject to the amendments.

Compliance with schemes

Investigations

17. (1) Where it appears to the Board, whether on a complaint made to it under section 18 below or otherwise, that a public body may have

failed to carry out a scheme approved by the Board, the Board may conduct an investigation in order to ascertain whether there has been a failure.

(2) The procedure for conducting an investigation under this section shall be such as the Board considers appropriate in the circumstances of the case, and in particular an investigation may be conducted in private.

(3) The Board may, if it considers it appropriate to do so, pay to any person who attends or provides information for the purposes of an investigation—

(a) sums in respect of the expenses properly incurred by him, and

(b) allowances by way of compensation for the loss of his time,

in accordance with such scales and subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury.

Complaints of non-compliance

18. (1) This section applies where—

(a) a written complaint is made to the Board by a person who claims to have been directly affected by a failure of a public body to carry out a scheme approved by the Board,

(b) the complaint is made within the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which the complainant first knew of the matters alleged in the complaint, and

(c) the Board is satisfied that the complainant has brought the matter complained of to the notice of the public body concerned and that that body has had a reasonable opportunity to consider it and to respond.

(2) Where this section applies, the Board shall either investigate that complaint under section 17 above or shall send to the complainant a statement of its reasons for not doing so.

Reports on investigations

19. (1) Where the Board undertakes an investigation under section 17 above, it shall send a report of the results of the investigation to the public body concerned, to the Secretary of State and, where the

investigation is conducted on a complaint made under section 18 above, to the complainant (whether or not the complaint is withdrawn before the investigation is completed).

(2) Where the Board considers that it would be appropriate for a report of the results of an investigation to be published, either in the form of the report made under subsection (1) above or in some other form, the Board may arrange for publication in such manner as it thinks fit.

(3) Where on completing an investigation the Board is satisfied that the public body concerned has failed to carry out the scheme, the Board may include in its report recommendations as to action to be taken by the public body in order to remedy the failure or to avoid future failures

Directions by Secretary of State

20. (1) If at any time it appears to the Board that a public body has failed to take any action recommended in a report under section 19 above, the Board may refer the matter to the Secretary of State.

(2) If on a reference under this section the Secretary of State is satisfied, after considering any representations made to him by the Board and by the public body concerned, that the body has failed to take any action recommended in the report, he may give such directions to the public body as he considers appropriate.

(3) Any directions given by the Secretary of State under subsection (2) above shall be enforceable, on an application made by him, by mandamus.

The Crown

Persons acting on behalf of the Crown

21. (1) References in this Part of this Act to public bodies do not include references to any person acting as the servant or agent of the Crown; but the following provisions of this section shall apply where such a person has adopted or proposes to adopt a Welsh language scheme.

(2) A person who has adopted a Welsh language scheme before the commencement of this Act shall send a copy of it to the Board.

(3) A person preparing a Welsh language scheme after the commencement of this Act shall have regard to any guidelines issued

by the Board under section 9 above, and shall before adopting it send the proposed scheme to the Board.

(4) Where the Board suggests amendments to a scheme or proposed scheme sent by any person to the Board in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) above, that person shall, if he does not give effect to the amendments, send to the Board a written statement of the reasons for not doing so.

(5) Sections 17 to 19 above shall apply in relation to persons to whom this section applies and to Welsh language schemes adopted by them as they apply to public bodies and schemes approved by the Board.

(6) In this section "Welsh language scheme" means a scheme specifying measures which the person preparing the scheme proposes to take as to the use of the Welsh language in connection with the provision of services to the public in Wales by that person, or by others who are acting as servants or agents of the Crown or are public bodies.

Part III

MISCELLANEOUS

Welsh in legal proceedings

Use of Welsh in legal proceedings

22. (1) In any legal proceedings in Wales the Welsh language may be spoken by any party, witness or other person who desires to use it, subject in the case of proceedings in a court other than a magistrates' court to such prior notice as may be required by rules of court; and any necessary provision for interpretation shall be made accordingly.

(2) Any power to make rules of court includes power to make provision as to the use, in proceedings in or having a connection with Wales, of documents in the Welsh language.

Oaths and affirmations

23. The Lord Chancellor may make rules prescribing a translation in the Welsh language of any form for the time being prescribed by law as the form of any oath or affirmation to be administered and taken or made by any person in any court, and an oath or affirmation administered and taken or made in any court in Wales in the translation prescribed by such rules shall, without interpretation, be

of the like effect as if it had been administered and taken or made in the English language.

Provision of interpreters

24. (1) The Lord Chancellor may make rules as to the provision and employment of interpreters of the Welsh and English languages for the purposes of proceedings before courts in Wales.

(2) The interpreters shall be paid, out of the same fund as the expenses of the court are payable, such remuneration in respect of their services as the Lord Chancellor may determine.

(3) The Lord Chancellor's powers under this section shall be exercised with the consent of the Treasury.

Statutory names, forms etc

Powers to give Welsh names to statutory bodies etc

25. (1) Where a name is conferred by an Act of Parliament on any body, office or place, the appropriate Minister may by order confer on the body, office or place an alternative name in Welsh.

(2) Where an Act of Parliament gives power, exercisable by statutory instrument, to confer a name on any body, office or place, the power shall include power to confer alternative names in English and Welsh.

(3) This section shall not apply in relation to a name conferred on any area or local authority by the 1972 c. 70. Local Government Act 1972, or to any power exercisable under that Act.

Powers to prescribe Welsh forms

26. (1) This section applies where an Act of Parliament specifies, or confers power to specify,—

(a) the form of any document, or

(b) any form of words,

which is to be or may be used for an official or public purpose or for any other purpose where the consequences in law of any act depend on the form used.

(2) Where the Act itself specifies the form of the document or the form of words, the appropriate Minister may by order prescribe—

(a) a form of the document in Welsh, or partly in Welsh and partly in English or, as the case may be,

(b) a form of words in Welsh,

for use in such circumstances and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the order.

(3) Where the Act confers a power to specify the form of the document or the form of words, the power shall include power to prescribe—

(a) separate forms of the document, or separate forms of words, in Welsh and in English, and

(b) in the case of a document, a form partly in Welsh and partly in English,

for use in such circumstances and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the instrument by which the power is exercised.

(4) Where the powers conferred by this section are exercised in relation to the form of a document or a form of words, a reference in an Act or instrument to the form shall, so far as may be necessary, be construed as (or as including) a reference to the form prescribed under or by virtue of this section.

(5) This section shall not apply in relation to a provision which—

(a) confers, or gives power to confer, a name on any body, office or place, or

(b) requires specified words to be included in the name of any body, office or place.

Provisions supplementary to sections 25 and 26

27. (1) Anything done in Welsh by virtue of section 26 above shall have the like effect as if done in English.

(2) Any provision authorizing—

(a) the use of a document or words to the like effect as a document or words of which another version is prescribed by virtue of section 26 above, or

(b) the adaptation of a document or words of which another version is so prescribed,

shall apply in relation to both versions.

(3) The powers to make orders under sections 25(1) and 26(2) above shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, which shall be laid before Parliament after being made.

(4) References in sections 25 and 26 above to an Act of Parliament include references to Acts passed after this Act; and in those sections "the appropriate Minister" in relation to any Act means—

(a) in the case of provisions for the execution of which in Wales a Minister other than the Secretary of State is responsible, that Minister, and

(b) in any other case, the Secretary of State.

(5) Any question arising under paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) above shall be determined by the Treasury; and in that subsection "Minister" includes the Treasury, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Industrial and provident societies

28. (1) Section 5 of the 1965 c. 12 .Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 (name of society) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), for the words from "the word" to the end there shall be substituted the words "the last word in the name of every society registered under this Act shall be "limited" or, if the rules of the society state that its registered office is to be in Wales, either that word or the word "cyfyngedig" " .

(3) In subsection (5)—

(a) after the words "contain the word "limited" " there shall be inserted the words "or the word "cyfyngedig" " ,

(b) for the words "that word" there shall be substituted the words "either of those words" , and

(c) after the words "that the word "limited" " there shall be inserted the words " , or in an appropriate case the word "cyfyngedig" ,"

Credit unions

29. (1) Section 3 of the 1979 c. 34 .Credit Unions Act 1979 (use of name "credit union" , etc) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1), there shall be added at the end the words "or, if the rules of the society state that its registered office is to be in Wales, either those words or the words "undeb credyd" " .

(3) In subsection (2), after the words "'credit union" or" there shall be inserted the words "'undeb credyd" or" .

Companies

Documents relating to Welsh companies

30. (1) The 1985 c. 6 . Companies Act 1985 shall be amended as follows.

(2) Section 21 (registered documentation of Welsh companies) shall cease to have effect.

(3) In section 228(2)(f) (under which the conditions for exemption from the requirement to provide group accounts include the provision of translations of certain documents), at the beginning there shall be inserted the words "(subject to section 710B(6) (delivery of certain Welsh documents without a translation))" .

(4) The words "then, subject to section 710B(6) (delivery of certain Welsh documents without a translation)," shall be inserted—

(a) after the words "other than English" in sections 242(1) and 243(4) and paragraph 7(3) of Part II of Schedule 9, and

(b) after the words "does not apply" in sections 272(5) and 273(7),

(all of which require certain documents in a language other than English to be delivered to the registrar with a translation).

(5) Section 255E (accounting documents of Welsh private companies) shall cease to have effect.

(6) After section 710A there shall be inserted—

Documents relating to Welsh companies

710B (1) This section applies to any document which—

(a) is delivered to the registrar under this Act or the 1986 c. 45 .Insolvency Act 1986, and

(b) relates to a company (whether already registered or to be registered) whose memorandum states that its registered office is to be situated in Wales.

(2) A document to which this section applies may be in Welsh but, subject to subsection (3), shall on delivery to the registrar be accompanied by a certified translation into English.

(3) The requirement for a translation imposed by subsection (2) shall not apply—

(a) to documents of such descriptions as may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph, or

(b) to documents in a form prescribed in Welsh (or partly in Welsh and partly in English) by virtue of section 26 of the 1993 c. 38 .Welsh Language Act 1993.

(4) Where by virtue of subsection (3) the registrar receives a document in Welsh without a certified translation into English, he shall, if that document is to be available for inspection, himself obtain such a translation; and that translation shall be treated as delivered to him in accordance with the same provision as the original.

(5) A company whose memorandum states that its registered office is to be situated in Wales may deliver to the registrar a certified translation into Welsh of any document in English which relates to the company and which is or has been delivered to the registrar.

(6) The provisions within subsection (7) (which require certified translations into English of certain documents delivered to the registrar) shall not apply where a translation is required by subsection (2) or would be required but for subsection (3).

(7) The provisions within this subsection are section 228(2)(f), the second sentence of section 242(1), sections 243(4), 272(5) and 273(7) and paragraph 7(3) of Part II of Schedule 9.

(8) In this section "certified translation" means a translation certified in the prescribed manner to be a correct translation."

Publicity for limited liability status of Welsh companies

31. In section 351 of the 1985 c. 6 . Companies Act 1985, subsections (3) and (4) (which require the status of a company whose name ends

in "cwmni cyfyngedig cyhoeddus" or "cyfyngedig" to appear in English on certain documents) shall cease to have effect.

Charities

Registered charities

32. (1) Section 5 of the 1993 c. 10 . Charities Act 1993 (which requires the status of a registered charity to appear in English on certain documents) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), the words "in English" shall be omitted.

(3) After subsection (2), there shall be inserted—

" (2A) The statement required by subsection (2) above shall be in English, except that, in the case of a document which is otherwise wholly in Welsh, the statement may be in Welsh if it consists of or includes the words "elusen cofrestredig" (the Welsh equivalent of "registered charity")."

(4) In subsection (4), for the words from "in which" to "stated as" there shall be substituted the words "which does not contain the statement"

(5) In subsection (5), for the words from "in which" to "stated as" there shall be substituted "which does not contain the statement".

Statement of charitable status

33. (1) Section 68 of the Charities Act 1993 (which requires the status of a charity that is a company to appear in English on certain documents) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (1)—

(a) after the words "the word "charitable" " there shall be inserted the words "then, subject to subsection (1A)" , and

(b) the words "in English" shall be omitted.

(3) After subsection (1), there shall be inserted—

" (1A) Where a company's name includes the word "elusen" or the word "elusennol" (the Welsh equivalents of the words "charity" and "charitable"), subsection (1) above shall not apply in relation to any document which is wholly in Welsh.

(1B) The statement required by subsection (1) above shall be in English, except that, in the case of a document which is otherwise wholly in Welsh, the statement may be in Welsh if it consists of or includes the word "elusen" or the word "elusenol" . "

Supplementary

Notices

(1) Any notice or other document required or authorised to be given or sent to the Board or to a public body under Part II of this Act may be sent by post to the principal office of the Board or of that public body.

(2) Any notice required or authorised to be given to a member of the Board under Schedule 1 to this Act may be sent by post to the last known address of the member.

(3) This section shall not be taken to exclude any method of giving or sending a notice or other document not expressly provided for by this section.

Repeals and consequential amendments

34. (1) The enactments mentioned in Schedule 2 to this Act (which include spent enactments) are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule

(2) The S.I. 1992/1083 Companies Act 1985 (Welsh Language Accounts) Regulations 1992 are hereby revoked.

(3) In Schedule 1 to the 1978 c. 10 .European Parliamentary Elections Act 1978, in paragraph 2(5) (application of section 2(1) of the 1967 c. 66 .Welsh Language Act 1967 to regulations under that Schedule)—

(a) for "2(1)" there shall be substituted " 26" ;

(b) for "1967" there shall be substituted "1993" ; and

(c) for "enactments" there shall be substituted "Acts of Parliament"

(4) In the Appendix of forms in Schedule 1 to the Representation of the 1983 c. 2 .People Act 1983, in paragraph 2(a) of the directions as to printing the ballot paper, for the words from "except" to "and the" there shall be substituted the words "except the direction to vote for one candidate only and the"

(5) For section 22 of the Representation of the 1985 c. 50 .People Act 1985 (power to prescribe Welsh version of forms specified in certain rules and regulations) there shall be substituted—

"Welsh forms

22. Section 26 of the 1993 c. 38 . Welsh Language Act 1993 (power to prescribe Welsh forms of documents or words specified in Acts), except subsection (3), shall apply in relation to regulations made under the principal Act or this Act and rules made (or having effect as if made) under section 36 of the principal Act as it applies in relation to Acts of Parliament."

Commencement

35. (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, this Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

36. (2) Sections 30, 31 and 35(2), and the repeals made by this Act in the 1985 c. 6 . Companies Act 1985, shall come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may appoint by order made by statutory instrument; and different days may be appointed for different purposes. (3) An order under subsection (2) above may include such transitional provisions as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient.

Short title

This Act may be cited as the Welsh Language Act 1993.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 4

THE BOARD

Members

1. The Secretary of State shall appoint one of the members of the Board to be chairman of the Board.

2. (1) Subject to the following provisions, a member of the Board, and the chairman, shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

(2) A person may at any time resign his office as a member or as chairman of the Board by notice in writing addressed to the Secretary of State.

(3) The Secretary of State may remove a member from office by notice in writing if—

(a) the member has been absent from meetings of the Board for a period of three consecutive months without the Board's consent, or

(b) a bankruptcy order has been made against the member, or his estate has been sequestrated, or he has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his creditors, or

(c) the Secretary of State is satisfied that the member is unable or unfit to discharge his functions as a member.

(4) If the chairman ceases to be a member of the Board he shall also cease to be chairman.

Remuneration of members

3. (1) The Board shall pay to its members such remuneration and allowances as the Secretary of State may determine.

(2) The Board may make such payments towards the provision

of pensions to or in respect of its members as the Secretary of State may determine.

(3) If the Secretary of State determines that there are special circumstances which make it right that a person ceasing to hold office as a member of the Board should receive compensation, he may direct the Board to make to that person a payment of such amount as the Secretary of State may determine.

(4) The Secretary of State shall not make any determination under this paragraph without the approval of the Treasury.

Parliamentary disqualification

4. In Part II of Schedule 1 to the 1975 c. 24 .House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (bodies of which all members are

disqualified) the following entry shall be inserted at the appropriate place—

"Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (the Welsh Language Board)."

Parliamentary Commissioner

5. In Schedule 2 to the 1967 c. 13 . Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (departments and authorities subject to investigation) the following entry shall be inserted at the appropriate place—

"Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Board)."

Procedure

(7) (1) The quorum of the Board and its procedure shall be such as the Board may determine.

(2) The validity of any proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of any member or of the chairman, or by any vacancy in the office of chairman.

(3) The Secretary of State or a person appointed by him may attend meetings of the Board.

Evidence

7. A document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the Board or to be signed on the Board's behalf shall be received in evidence and shall be deemed to be so executed or signed unless the contrary is proved.

Staff

8. In determining—

- (a) the number of the Board's staff,
- (b) the remuneration, allowances and gratuities to be paid to or in respect of the staff, and
- (c) the other terms and conditions of service of the staff,

the Board shall act only with the approval of the Secretary of State given with the consent of the Treasury.

9. (1) Employment by the Board shall be included among the kinds of employment to which a scheme under section 1 of the 1972 c. 11

.Superannuation Act 1972 may apply; and, accordingly, in Schedule 1 to that Act (in which those kinds of employment are listed) at the end of the list of "Other Bodies" there shall be inserted—

"Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Board)."

(2) The Board shall pay to the Treasury, at such times as the Treasury may direct, such sums as the Treasury may determine in respect of the increase attributable to sub-paragraph (1) above in the sums payable out of money provided by Parliament under that Act.

(3) Where a person employed by the Board—

(a) is, by reference to that employment, a participant in a scheme under section 1 of that Act, and

(b) becomes a member of the Board,

then, with the approval of the Secretary of State given with the consent of the Treasury, the Board may determine that his term of office as a member shall be treated for the purposes of the scheme as employment by the Board (whether or not any benefits are payable to or in respect of him by virtue of paragraph 3(2) above).

Status

10. The Board shall not be regarded as the servant or agent of the Crown or as enjoying any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown; and the Board's property shall not be regarded as property of, or held on behalf of, the Crown.

Expenses

11. The expenses of the Board, up to such amount as may be approved by the Secretary of State with the consent of the Treasury, may be defrayed by the Secretary of State.

Accounts

12. (1) The Board shall keep proper accounts, and shall prepare a statement of accounts in respect of each accounting year.

(2) The statement of accounts shall contain such information and shall be in such form as the Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, direct.

(3) The Board shall send copies of the statement of accounts to the Secretary of State and to the Comptroller and Auditor General not

later than the 31st August following the end of the accounting year to which the statement relates.

(4) The Comptroller and Auditor General shall examine, certify and report on the statement of accounts and shall lay copies of the statement and of his report before each House of Parliament.

(5) The Board's accounting year shall be the period of twelve months ending with 31st March, except that the first accounting year shall be the period beginning with the day on which the Board is established and ending with the second 31st March following that date.

Annual reports

13. (1) As soon as possible after the end of each accounting year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary of State a report on the discharge of its functions during that year.

(2) The Secretary of State shall lay a copy of the Board's annual report before each House of Parliament.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 35

REPEALS

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
27 Hen. 8. c. 26.	The Laws in Wales Act 1535.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
34 & 35 Hen. 8. c. 26.	The Laws in Wales Act 1542.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed, except section 47.
9 & 10 Geo. 5. c. 21.	The Ministry of Health Act 1919.	Section 11(3).
5 & 6 Geo. 6. c. 40.	The Welsh Courts Act 1942.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
1967 c. 66 .	The Welsh Language Act 1967.	The whole Act, so far as unrepealed.
1977 c. 38 .	The Administration of Justice Act 1977.	In Schedule 2, paragraph 2.
1985 c. 6 .	The Companies Act 1985.	Section 21. In section 242(1) and 243(4) the words "Subject to section 255E (delivery of accounting documents in Welsh only)," . Section 255E. Section 351(3) and (4). In section 351(5), paragraph (c) and the word "and" immediately preceding it. In Schedule 9, in paragraph

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
		7(3) of Part II, the words "Subject to section 255E (delivery of accounting documents in Welsh only)," .
1985 c. 50 .	The Representation of the People Act 1985.	In Schedule 4, paragraph 85(a).
<u>1993 c. 10 .</u>	The Charities Act 1993.	In sections 5(2) and 68(1), the words "in English" .

Note: We acknowledge with thanks data from The Stationary Office, www.the-stationary-office.co.uk

References

CIA –The World Factbook 1999

Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 2000

Encyclopedia Britannica, © 1999-2000 Britannica.com Inc.

The European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages (Brussels and Dublin Office), Minority languages-United Kingdom, <http://www.eblul.org/>

Euromosaic Report on United Kingdom, (produced by the Institut de Sociolingüística Catalana (Barcelona), Centre de Recherche sur le plurilinguisme (Brussels), and Research Centre Wales (Bangor)), <http://www.uoc.es/euromosaic/web/homean/index1.html>

Alasdair MacCaluim, an article “Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament”

Part of the Ethnologue, 13th Edition, Barbara F. Grimes, Editor. Copyright © 1996, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Inc.

Website of the Council of Europe, Council of Europe's European Treaties, <http://www.coe.fr/eng/legaltxt/treaties.htm>

High Commissioner on National minorities, Report on the Linguistic Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities in the OSCE Area, Replies from OSCE participating states (August, 1997)

Website Mercator Linguistic Law and Legislation, <http://www.troc.es/ciemen/mercator/index-gb.htm>

Website Eurolang, <http://www.eurolang.net/>

Website of Perry-Castañeda Library, El Map Collection, The University of Texas at Austin
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/Map_collection.html