


Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority	
Date	21st October 2024	
Lead Officer	Stewart Forshaw, Deputy Chief Fire Officer	
Contact Officer	Natalie Lloyd Jones, Welsh Language Officer	
Subject	Welsh Language Standards Annual Monitoring Report 2023/24	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present for Members' approval the Welsh Language Standards Annual Monitoring Report for 2023/24 in relation to;
 - a. Compliance with Welsh Language Standards 155,161,167, that detail the Authority must produce a monitoring report each financial year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Monitoring Report attached outlines how the Service has complied with the standards mentioned above, mainly the Service Delivery Standards and the Operational Standards.
3. The Monitoring Report highlights how the Welsh language has been monitored, promoted, and developed the Welsh language within the service throughout the year. The Report also gives information on Welsh Language Development within the Service as well as the future opportunities that have been identified for improvement.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That Members:
 - a. approve the Welsh Language Standards Annual Monitoring Report for 2023/24 for publication on the Authority's website; and
 - b. note the Service's intention to publicise the document as noted in Standards 155,161,167.

BACKGROUND

- 5. Since 30 March 2017, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is required to comply with the Welsh Language Standards which are regulated by the Welsh Language Commissioner and replace the previous system of Welsh language schemes. The Service must produce an annual report which deals with the way it has complied with the standards.

INFORMATION

- 6. This year the Annual Welsh Language Monitoring Report for 2023-24 appears as a standalone document as opposed to being embedded in the Annual Performance Assessment document.
- 7. The Welsh language is an integral part of our core values and is essential to our People, Prevention, and Protection principles, which form part of our Community Risk Management Plan 2024 – 2029.
- 8. As of 31 March 2024, 88.2% of our staff were able to demonstrate that they had Welsh language skills (Level 1 and above), 38.6% of whom were classed as fluent speakers (Level 4 and 5 skills). This has increased in comparison with 37% in the previous year.
- 9. Welsh language learning has also been moved in-house facilitated by tutors from Coleg Cambria and in partnership with The National Centre for Learning Welsh, easing the process for staff to develop their Welsh skills.
- 10. For the sixth year in succession, no complaints had been received during the year in relation to the Welsh language.
- 11. The many steps taken by the Authority to promote the Welsh language and proactively encourage a language choice for all staff and Service users are also described in this report, including the various ways the Welsh language is promoted internally and externally.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	
Budget	None identified.

Legal	The document discharges the Authority's duties under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.
Staffing	None identified.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	Implications for the Welsh language are contained within this document.
Risks	None identified.