

# First President of Welsh Tribunals sworn in

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The President of Welsh Tribunals will provide judicial leadership to support the independence and effectiveness of the Welsh Tribunals.

Sir Wyn Williams was born and raised in Ferndale in the Rhondda. He was called to the Bar in 1974 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992. He was appointed a High Court Judge in 2007.

Between January 2012 and December 2015 he was a presiding judge for Wales becoming the Senior Presiding Judge in January 2014.

Sir Wyn Williams said,

"I am very pleased to have been appointed the first President of Welsh Tribunals. These tribunals have an important role in the Welsh legal landscape and I look forward to playing a part in ensuring that they provide access to justice in a modern and efficient manner."

Counsel General, Jeremy Miles AM said,

"The President of Welsh Tribunals is a crucial role in providing judicial leadership for the administration of justice in our tribunals and in sustaining the independence and standing of the Welsh Tribunals' judiciary.

"Sir Wyn Williams is a hugely experienced High Court Judge, born and raised here in Wales, and with a track record of judicial leadership in Wales over many years. I warmly welcome his appointment and wish him well in this important role."

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## **"Parents of two and three year olds, get them protected against flu this winter" says CMO Frank Atherton**

All children aged two and three years olds (age on 31 August 2017) are eligible for a free nasal spray flu vaccine at their GP surgery each winter.

The vaccine has been offered to eligible children in reception class and school years 1 to 4 in primary school. Parents and guardians are required to give consent before their child receives the flu nasal spray vaccine in

school.

The nasal spray vaccine provides good protection for children against influenza and is most effective if given before flu starts to circulate. This particular vaccine has a short shelf life and parents are urged to vaccinate their two and three year olds as soon as possible.

Dr Atherton said:

“We know that children are super-spreaders of germs.

“Illnesses like flu spread easily within families and because of the nature of nurseries, playgroups and the school environment, toddlers and children are often in very close proximity to each other, where they are especially susceptible to any circulating germs.

“Young children are at risk of serious complications of influenza, their immune systems are not yet fully developed so they can’t fight off infections, such as flu, as well as older children and adults.

“That is why I am urging two and three year olds to get vaccinated. It will help protect them from the flu and stop it spreading to family and friends in the wider community this winter.”

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## [Plan to put education at heart of ambition to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050](#)

The plan builds on the 2010 Welsh-medium Education Strategy and sets the direction for the development of Welsh-medium and Welsh language education over the next four years with the aim of ensuring that all young people, from all backgrounds, come out of the education system ready and proud to use the language in all contexts.

The plan’s five main objectives, to be delivered by 2021, are:

- to develop a new Welsh language curriculum that will inspire learners to learn and use the Welsh language;
- to increase opportunities for children and young people to use their Welsh in various contexts and embed their language use patterns from an early age;
- to support leaders and practitioners in Wales to continue to develop their Welsh language skills and have the knowledge and expertise to deliver the curriculum through the medium of Welsh and Welsh as a subject;
- to increase the number of learners in Welsh-medium settings;
- to ensure that all learners can have equal access to Welsh-medium education and experience the best opportunities to develop their language skills.

The Minister made the announcement at her former school, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg

Glantaf. When the Minister attended the school it was the only Welsh-medium secondary school serving Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. There are now three in Cardiff and one in the Vale.

Making the announcement, the Minister said:

“I was one of a handful of children from my estate in Cardiff who had my education through the medium of Welsh and distinctly remember having stones thrown at our bus full of primary school children as they objected to having a Welsh language school in their neighbourhood. I am delighted that the attitude towards the language has changed fundamentally from when I was a child and that we now have the opportunity to build on this goodwill.

“Reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050 is a significant challenge. Inspiring the next generation, particularly those from non-Welsh speaking families, to embrace the language and to use it in all contexts is vitally important in achieving this target.

“Whether our children attend Welsh-medium schools or learn the Welsh language in an English-medium school, education is key to the success of this ambition. This is why the Welsh in Education Action Plan is so important and why it is a priority for the rest of this Assembly term.”

During her visit, the Minister watched rehearsals for the Christmas concert and spoke to pupils and teachers, many of whom come from non Welsh speaking families, about their experience of Welsh-medium education. She said:

“My visit today highlighted the excellent all round education provided through the medium of Welsh. 61% of the pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes but at school, all are immersed in the language, culture and traditions of their nation and they will be able to carry that with them right through their lives and pass it on to their children.”

Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams said:

“Our national mission of education reform seeks to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap and deliver an education system that enjoys public confidence and is a source of national pride. The Welsh language is integral to those reforms and this action plan will ensure that it will be at the heart of the new curriculum, the professional development of the education workforce and the reform of how we support our learners with additional learning needs.”

Head teacher of Glantaf, Alun Davies said:

“We welcome the publication of the Welsh in Education Action Plan. As a Welsh-medium school whose motto is ‘Coron Gwlad Ei Mamiaith’ which translates to ‘A Country’s Crown is Her Mother Tongue’ we are of course committed to putting the Welsh language at the heart of school life. This action plan provides us and other schools with a framework and support to work towards ensuring all learners leave school confident to speak Welsh in everyday life”.