

# Changing the name of the National Assembly for Wales **Consultation results report**

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June 2017



**National Assembly for Wales**  
Assembly Commission



The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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# Background and methodology

The consultation on changing the name of the National Assembly for Wales ran from 8 December 2016 to 3 March 2017.

A bilingual survey was made available in hard copy, online and in an easy to read version. Supporting documentation was also published alongside the survey to explain the background to the consultation.

The consultation was promoted through:

- The Assembly's social media accounts;
- Networks representing specific stakeholders, community groups, charities and organisations; and
- Education, youth engagement, community outreach sessions, and with visitors to the Assembly Estate.

When considering options for the approach to the consultation, a number of factors were considered, including the representativeness of the sample and the costs.

Respondents were asked to provide equality monitoring data to help the Commission to assess the representativeness of the sample. During the survey, the equality monitoring data was observed and efforts were made to promote the survey with groups who appeared to be underrepresented. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the sample was self-selecting. The statistics gathered through the survey therefore represent the views of those who responded, not the public as a whole.

## Response rate

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In total 2,821 survey responses were received. Of these responses over three quarters (79.8 per cent) were completed online and 77.8 per cent were completed in English. 55 (1.9 per cent) surveys were completed on behalf of an organisation. The remaining responses were completed by individuals.

Headline figures:

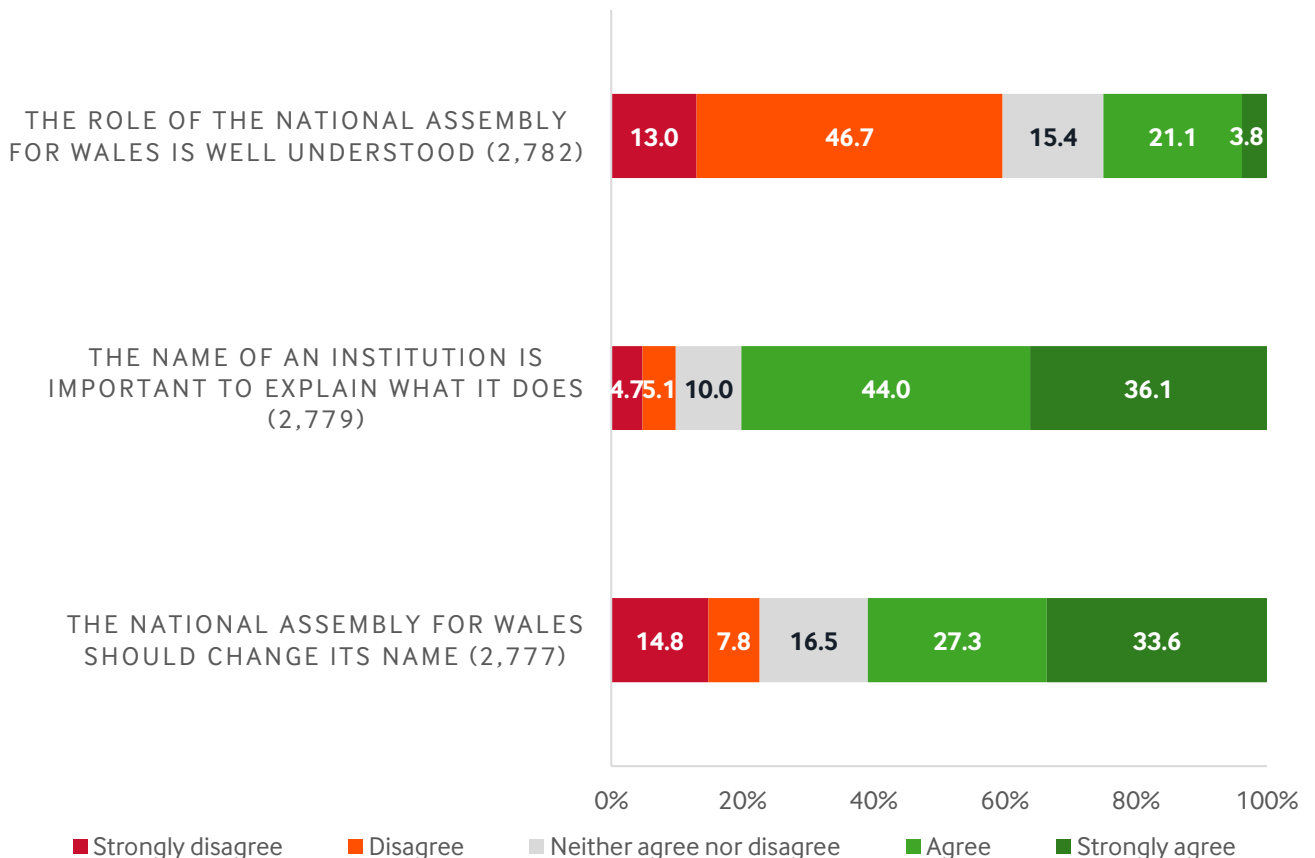
- 2,821 survey responses received
- 2,195 (77.8 per cent) English language survey responses
- 626 (22.2 per cent) Welsh language survey responses
- 55 (1.9 per cent) survey responses from those responding on the behalf of an organisation
- 2,250 (79.8 per cent) online survey responses
- 571 (20.2 per cent) paper based survey responses

# Survey results

## Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

### A “The role of the National Assembly for Wales is well understood”

Around three fifths (59.7 per cent) of respondents disagreed with the statement that, ‘The role of the National Assembly for Wales is well understood’. The majority (80.1 per cent) of respondents agreed that ‘The name of an institution is important to explain what it does’. Over three fifths (60.9 per cent) of respondents agreed with the statement, ‘The National Assembly for Wales should change its name’.

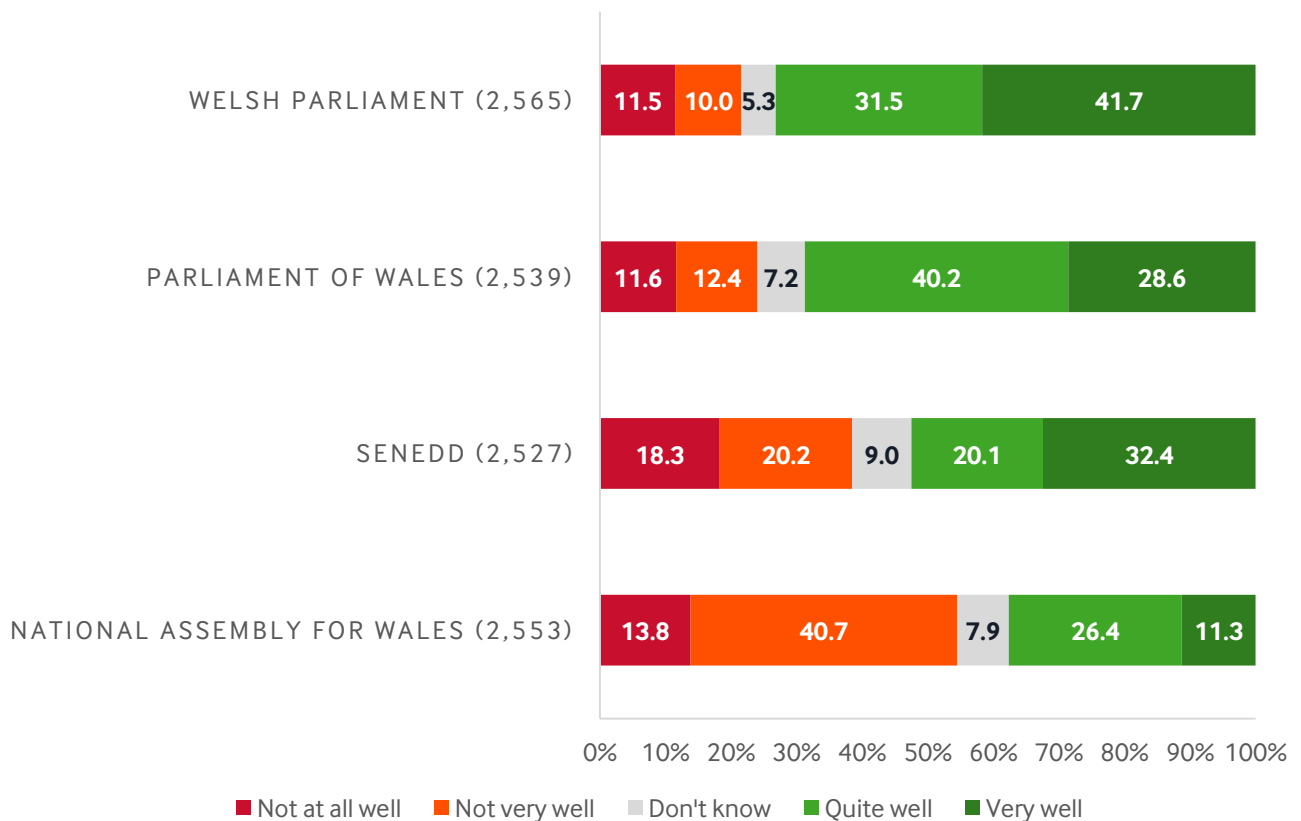


- Please note that due to rounding, percentages may not always add up to 100 Per cent.
- The numbers in brackets show the number of respondents to each statement.



## Question 2: How well do you feel the names below describe the role and responsibilities of the National Assembly for Wales?

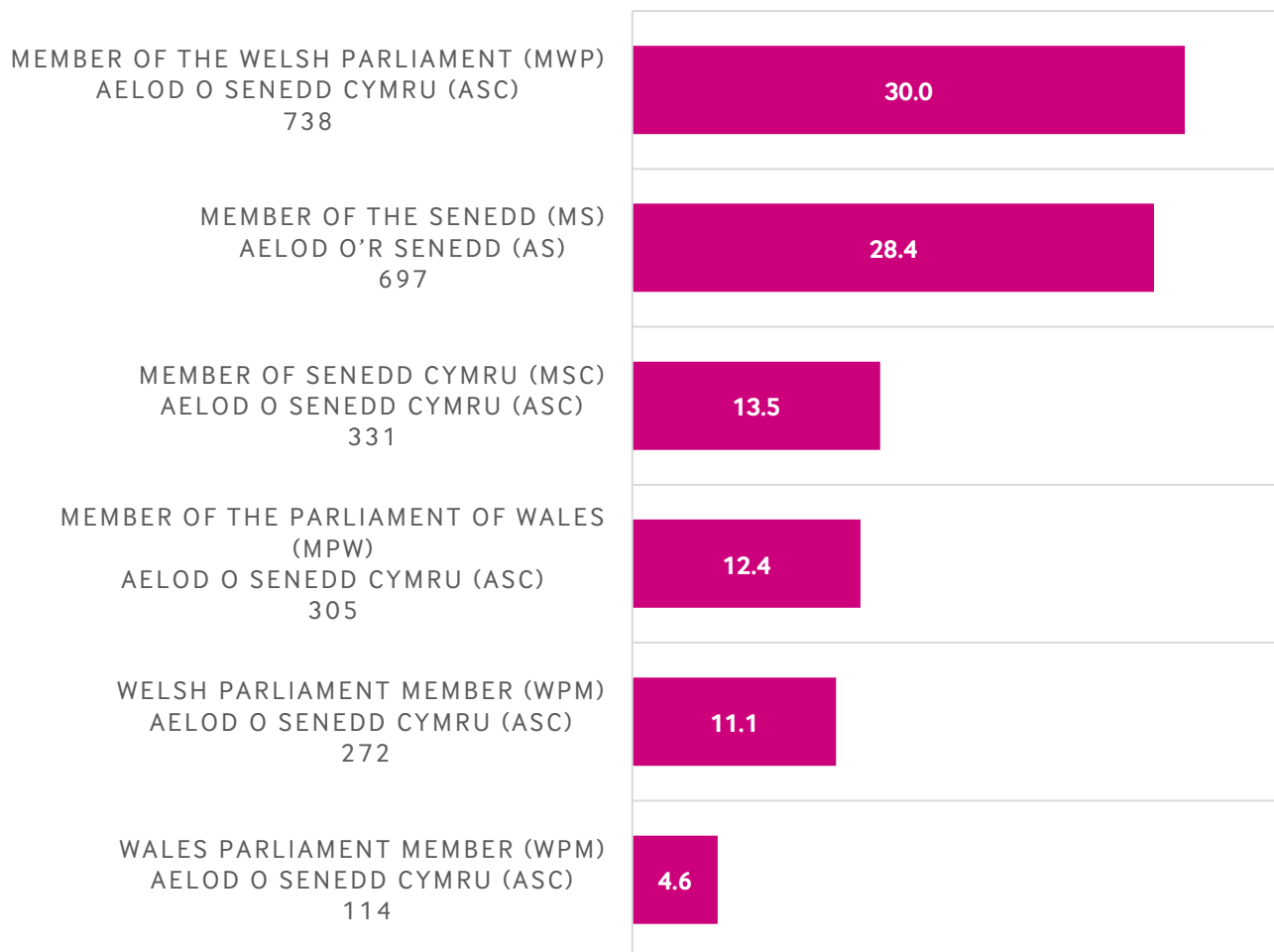
Respondents felt the name Welsh Parliament (73.2 per cent) best describes the role and responsibilities of the National Assembly for Wales, followed by Parliament of Wales (68.8 per cent) and Senedd (52.5 per cent). National Assembly for Wales (37.7 per cent) was the least favoured option.



- Please note that due to rounding, percentages may not always add up to 100 Per cent.
- The numbers in brackets show the number of respondents to each statement.

**Question 3: If there is a new name for the National Assembly for Wales it will mean a new name for Assembly Members. Choose the option you like best. If you do not think it should change you do not need to give an answer.**

Three tenths (30.0 per cent) of respondents preferred the title Member of the Welsh Parliament (MWP) / Aelod o Senedd Cymru (ASC) followed by over a quarter (28.4 per cent) who liked the name Member of the Senedd (MS) / Aelod o'r Senedd (AS). The least favoured option was Wales Parliament Member (WPM) / Aelod o Senedd Cymru (ASC) (4.6 per cent). (Aelod o Senedd Cymru is the Welsh equivalent of all but one of the options).



# Comments received

There were three opportunities for respondents to provide their own comments.

The sentiment of the comments was a relatively even mix of those who supported the changes, and those who questioned whether such a change would represent value for money or suggested that more pressing issues should be prioritised.

A significant (though comparatively far smaller) proportion of comments were received calling for the name to be changed to a monolingual Welsh name. The majority of these comments were provided by respondents who completed the survey in Welsh.

A sample of the comments is given below. Where comments were originally in Welsh, this is indicated by (W).

## A monolingual Welsh name?

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“Great care should be taken to ensure that it reflects all the population of Wales rather than continue to reinforce the perception of the Senedd as being for a Welsh speaking elite.”

“Wales should follow the Irish example and use only native terms for our parliament and officials such as the Presiding Officer. Everyone uses Taoiseach and Dáil.”(W)

“Important that both languages of Wales are reflected in the new name - it cannot be right for only one of them to be used.”

### **Need for clarity about the role of the institution**

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“Changing the name is vital because of the confusion that stemmed from naming both the Government and legislature an Assembly in 1999. It’s also important in terms of raising the profile of the institution.” (W)

“There is still considerable confusion on the ground regarding the exact nature of the Assembly’s work. Naturally, the media don’t help in this regard. Changing the name would help raise the status of the institution in the eyes of the public.” (W)

“I thought that the Welsh Assembly had changed its name to the Welsh Government. I did not realise that both exist and are different from each other.” (W)

“Due to the weak media that we have in Wales it is important that our legislature has a name that is instantly recognisable and reflects the role of the institution.”

“I do not believe it will change people's perception of the institution.”

### **Reflective of its function**

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“It will have the powers of a parliament; therefore, ‘Senedd’ is what it should be called.” (W)

“I feel a change of name to the Welsh Parliament would add to the institution's prestige and put it on level footing in terms of its name at least with the Scottish Parliament.”

“I see absolutely no need – and support the retention of the name Assembly (which contrasts nicely with "Parliament", referring to the UK Parliament). I don't feel "Assembly" implies any sort of second-class status, the National Assembly of France being a case in point.”

### **Not a priority**

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“A change of name makes no difference whatsoever. There are many more pressing matters which require attention.”

"I'm sure there are more important things to be discussed and to have money spent on them." (W)

### **Concerns over cost**

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"We should not be wasting money on "rebranding" materials. If there is a name change, branding changes should be undertaken in a very simple and gradual way." (W)

“How much time (and therefore expense - including opportunity cost) the legal drafting of such a Bill and the glossy documents have already cost.”

"It will cost too much money to change the name - better to spend the money on hospitals and schools." (W)

“I certainly see the value in changing the name to assist people to understand what the body of AMs does. I do have concerns about the costs of a name change.”

“Why spend Welsh taxpayer's money on a needless name change when the money could be better invested.”

“Do not spend a fortune on alterations.”



### **Timing**

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“I think any new name should come into force after the dissolution of the current Assembly following the next Assembly elections.”

“Agree with the timescale but any change should be at a minimal cost.”

“Wait until the next election.”

### **Clarity of the draft Bill**

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“I like the simplicity of the bill.”

“I think the draft legislation is set out logically, clearly and in an accessible way. I would be happy with this piece of legislation to change the name.”

# Organisations that responded to the survey

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Newport YMCA</li><li>– Swyddfa Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru</li><li>– Bay of Colwyn Town Council</li><li>– ACT Training</li><li>– Wick Community Council</li><li>– True Wales</li><li>– The FDF</li><li>– Risca Town Council</li><li>– Rhayader Town Council</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Cenarth</li><li>– Penyffordd Community Council</li><li>– Penarth Town Council</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Cenarth</li><li>– Electoral Reform Society Cymru</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Llanllechid</li><li>– New Radnor Community Council</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Y Bontnewydd</li><li>– Lisvane Community Council</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Llanllwchaearn</li><li>– Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice</li><li>– Mixtup</li><li>– Llandrinio &amp; Arddleen Community Council</li><li>– Maesteg Town Council</li><li>– Conwy Town Council</li><li>– Mudiad Meithrin</li><li>– Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern</li><li>– Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Menter Iaith Sir y Fflint</li><li>– Abergele Town Council</li><li>– Association of School and College Leaders (Cymru)</li><li>– Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern</li><li>– Vale Youth Cabinet</li><li>– Tonyrefail and District Community Council</li><li>– The University and College Union (Wales)</li><li>– The Campaign for a Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales (CYPAW)</li><li>– Pontardawe Town Council</li><li>– Llais Gwynedd</li><li>– Penstrowed Community Council</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Clydau</li><li>– Cyngor Bro Llanllwni</li><li>– Old Radnor Community Council</li><li>– Cyngor Tref Aberystwyth</li><li>– Let Down in Wales</li><li>– Cyngor Tref Criccieth</li><li>– Nantyglo &amp; Blaina Town Council</li><li>– Cyngor Tref Porthmadog</li><li>– Monmouth Town Council</li><li>– Magor with Undy Community Council</li><li>– Llanfechain Community Council</li><li>– Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council</li><li>– Cyngor Tref Pwllheli</li><li>– Cyngor Cymuned Abergwyngregyn</li><li>– Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru</li></ul> |
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# Email submissions

In addition to the survey a total of 227 email responses to the consultation were received. Of these responses, 193 were from individuals completing a pro forma on the Cymdeithas yr Iaith website. The other 34 responses were from a range of organisations and individuals. Of these 34 responses, 14 had already completed the survey and these responses are included in the analysis above. A summary of the other responses received can be found below.

The 193 responses received via the pro forma on the Cymdeithas yr Iaith proforma website state:

‘The monolingual Welsh term ‘Senedd’, best describes the function and responsibilities of the National Assembly’.

This same view is reflected in Cymdeithas yr Iaith’s own response and the organisation also notes:

‘In terms of Members, we believe that ‘Seneddwyr/Seneddwr’ would be the most appropriate title’.

Dathlu’r Gymraeg also believes the monolingual name Senedd should be used.

The Welsh Language Commissioner supports adopting one Welsh name for the organisation, Senedd or Senedd Cymru. Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru state that there should be one Welsh name: ‘Senedd Cymru’ and Members should be called, ‘Aelod o Senedd Cymru (ASC)’.

The Gorwel Board believes that the term Senedd is the best option.

The 13 city, town, rural and community councils who responded had differing views. Five stated that there was no need to change the name of the organisation, noting cost as a prohibitive factor. Four supported the proposals with two preferring the name Senedd.

The First Minister wrote to the Llywydd, and stated:

‘...in my view the name Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru, with Members to be known as Member of the Welsh Parliament (MWP)/Aelod o Senedd Cymru (ASC), are the best options, both for constitutional consistency and to enhance public understanding of its role’.

An academic, Professor Richard Wyn Jones, stated:

‘the Welsh legislature should have a bilingual name – ‘Senedd’ in Welsh and ‘Parliament’ in English – as this is the way to promote understanding of the functions of our national legislature among the public.’

# Survey responses – equality monitoring

## Local authority area

Option	Survey sample (2,552 responses)	2015 mid-year population estimates – StatsWales
Blaenau Gwent	30 (1.2%)	2.2%
Bridgend	62 (2.4%)	4.6%
Caerphilly	84 (3.3%)	5.8%
Cardiff	487 (19.1%)	11.5%
Carmarthenshire	147 (5.8%)	6.0%
Ceredigion	137 (5.4%)	2.4%
Conwy	70 (2.7%)	3.8%
Denbighshire	65 (2.5%)	3.1%
Flintshire	73 (2.9%)	5.0%
Gwynedd	208 (8.2%)	4.0%
Anglesey	113 (4.4%)	2.3%
Merthyr Tydfil	20 (0.8%)	1.9%
Monmouthshire	50 (2.0%)	3.0%
Neath Port Talbot	88 (3.4%)	4.5%
Newport	66 (2.6%)	4.8%
Pembrokeshire	76 (3.0%)	4.0%
Powys	142 (5.6%)	4.3%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	126 (4.9%)	7.7%
Swansea	144 (5.6%)	7.8%
Torfaen	33 (1.3%)	3.0%
Vale of Glamorgan	129 (5.1%)	4.1%
Wrexham	99 (3.9%)	4.4%
Outside of Wales	103 (4.0%)	N/A

## Gender

Option	Survey sample (2,528 responses)	2015 mid-year population estimates – StatsWales
Male	1,490 (58.9%)	49.2%
Female	942 (37.3%)	50.8%
Do not want to say	96 (3.8%)	N/A

## Identify as transgender

Option	Survey sample (2,376 responses)	2015 mid-year population estimates – StatsWales
Yes	17 (0.7%)	N/A
No	2,231 (93.9%)	N/A
Don't want to say	128 (5.4%)	N/A

## Sexual orientation

Option	Survey sample (2,334 responses)	Sexual Identity by Region and Country, 2015 - ONS
Bisexual	121 (5.2%)	0.6%
Gay woman / lesbian	36 (1.5%)	1.0% (Gay or lesbian)
Gay man	189 (8.1%)	
Heterosexual / straight	1,662 (71.2%)	95%
Do not want to say	285 (12.2%)	2.9%
Something else	41 (1.8%)	0.5%



## Age

Option	Survey sample (2,508 responses)	2015 mid-year population estimates – StatsWales
Under 16	252 (10.0%)	17.9%
16 – 18	280 (11.2%)	3.6%
19 – 25	323 (12.9%)	9.5%
26 – 35	376 (15.0%)	12.0%
36 – 59	890 (35.5%)	30.8%
Over 60	387 (15.4%)	26.1%

## Disability

Option	Survey sample (2,399 responses)	2011 census – ONS*
Yes	220 (9.2%)	22.7%
No	2,047 (85.3%)	77.3%
Prefer not say	132 (5.5%)	N/A

\*question wording different in this survey sample in comparison to the 2011 census.

## Type of disability

Option	Survey sample (244 responses)	2011 census – ONS*
Physical	49 (20.1%)	N/A
Mental health	81 (33.2%)	
Learning	34 (13.9%)	
Sensory	25 (10.2%)	
Medical condition (e.g. cancer, HIV, MS, other)	55 (22.5%)	

\*no comparable data

## National identity

Option	Survey sample (1,799 responses)	2011 census – ONS*
Welsh	1,271 (70.7%)	65.9%
English	83 (4.6%)	13.8%
Scottish	8 (0.4%)	0.6%
Northern Irish	0 (0.0%)	0.2%
British	355 (19.7%)	26.3%
Any other identity	82 (4.6%)	4.3%

\*In the 2011 Census respondents could tick more than one category therefore the total will not sum to 100%

## Ethnic origin

Option	Survey sample (2,365 responses)	2011 census - ONS
White	2,242 (94.8%)	95.6%
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	32 (1.4%)	1.0%
Asian	19 (0.8%)	2.3%
Black / African / Caribbean	6 (0.3%)	0.6%
Any other ethnic origin	64 (2.7%)	0.5%