



Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales Welsh Language Standards Annual Report

April 2024 – March 2025

Contents

Foreword	3
Compliance Oversight Arrangements	4
Compliance Assessment	4
Reporting on work undertaken in 2024-2025	6
Forthcoming work 2025-2026	7

Foreword

This is the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (“the Tribunal”) ninth annual report on its compliance with the Welsh Language Standards since the standards came into force on 30 March 2017. The focus of this report is the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales (MHRTW) is an independent judicial body established under the Mental Health Act 1959 operating under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended). The MHRTW has the responsibility of deciding applications and referrals concerning patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA), patients subject to community treatments orders (CTOs), guardianship and patients conditionally discharged from hospital.

The MHRTW as a judicial body is independent of government and members are appointed by the Lord Chancellor. Membership consists of:

- The Tribunal President i.e. the Judicial Lead;
- Two Salaried Judges;
- Judges;
- Medical Professional Members; and
- Specialist Members.

The tribunal membership consists of 31 Judges, 43 Medical Members and 40 Specialist Members. 14 of those members (3 Judges, 5 Medical Members and 6 Specialist Members) have strong Welsh language skills, and the tribunal can convene a full panel (i.e. a judge, medical member and a specialist member) that can hear and conduct a full hearing through the medium of Welsh.

The secretariat is responsible for tribunal administration and deal with all telephone and written enquiries. They are civil servants employed by Welsh Government and form part of the Welsh Tribunals Unit, who are responsible for administering six devolved tribunals across Wales. The secretariat team has one member who is fluent in Welsh and is also able to have assistance from other secretariats within the wider Welsh Tribunals Unit, when necessary. A Senior Operations Manager and the Head of Welsh Tribunals are also fluent Welsh speakers.

Publication date: 30/09/2025

Contact details for enquiries: mhrt@gov.wales

Compliance Oversight Arrangements

This Annual Report has been prepared by the Welsh Tribunals Unit and has been approved by the President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

This annual report appears on the Tribunal's website and the Welsh Language Commissioner has been notified of its publication.

Compliance Assessment

Service Delivery Standards

The tribunal ensures compliance with the service delivery standards by:

- Providing staff with guidelines on responding to correspondence, telephone answering and e-mail messages.
- Letter templates offering Tribunal users an opportunity to receive correspondence in Welsh. Letters and emails from the Tribunal also include a standard sentence stating that correspondence is welcomed in Welsh, and that corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.
- All documents produced for public are available in Welsh and English, including application forms and guidance documents. English versions of documents and forms produced by the Tribunal also include a standard sentence stating that they are available in Welsh, and that the public can submit information to the Tribunal in Welsh.
- From March 2024, a new language preference question has been included within forms with a second non-mandatory question asking "If you can speak Welsh and have indicated English as your language of choice, we would welcome feedback to identify the barriers to using the Welsh language in Tribunals".
- Making sure that there is an awareness that provision is in place to enable Welsh language hearings to be held and that an attendee can use Welsh in a hearing.
- Every page of our website is available in Welsh and English.
- The Welsh Government uses a telephone system through Microsoft Teams. The Tribunal uses this system to ensure that it complies with standards 8 and 9 by ensuring that Tribunal users will have the option of pressing 1 to speak with a member of the team in Welsh and pressing 2 to speak with a member of the team in English.

Use of our Services 2024-2025:

Total Applications Received	1,825
Applications Processed in Welsh	8
Total Hearings Held	921
Hearings Held in Welsh	8

Websites

Below is a breakdown of how many visits were made to the Welsh and English pages of the MHRTW Tribunal Website between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

	English	Welsh	Total
Page views	1,354	20	1,374

Policy Making Standards

The Tribunal exercises its statutory functions as set out by its governing legislation. The Tribunal does not have a remit to develop policy. However, we consider the impact of our operational decisions on the delivery of our services in Welsh.

Record Keeping Standards

The Tribunal's Compliance Notice (that details the Service Delivery, Policy Making and Record Keeping Standards that the Tribunal must comply with) has been published on the Tribunal's website: www.mentalhealthreviewtribunal.gov.wales/sites/mentalhealthreview/files/2019-06/180711-mhrtw-welsh-lang-standards-compliance-en_0.pdf. We keep a record of the number of complaints we receive, if any, relating to our compliance with the Standards.

Complaints

The Tribunal received no complaints about the implementation of the Standards during the reporting period.

Reporting on work undertaken in 2024-2025

	Action	Progress
1.	Engage with service users to identify barriers to interacting with the Tribunals through the medium of the Welsh language.	Objective on-going. Process has been designed to capture information from users, with all application forms requesting that Welsh speaking applicants identify reasons why they may not have chosen to interact in Welsh with the Tribunal. Data has been collected from March 2024. The data received is reported to Judicial Leads on a quarterly basis. Sufficient information has not yet been received to perform a satisfactory analysis. We will continue to collect data which will be analysed once a sufficient pool has been received from service users.
2.	Deliver training to all tribunal members and WTU staff to raise awareness of the use of the Welsh language in its hearings and wider communication and the tribunals obligations within the Welsh Language Standards.	Objective completed. Training was provided to WTU administrative staff during the Team Training Day in September 2023. Information provided to Tribunal members on the Welsh Language Standards in November 2024.
3.	Identify improvements that can be made and implemented within 2024-25 to promote the use of the Welsh language in our tribunals.	Objective on-going. We have identified improvements that can be made to the Website, which will enable promotion of the Welsh language. Currently working with our IT department to implement.
4.	Assess Tribunal compliance with the Welsh Language Standards against baseline established in 2023-24.	Objective completed. No fundamental issues were identified when assessing the results of the self-assessment on staff compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. A further self-assessment to be undertaken in 2025-26.

Forthcoming work 2025-2026

1. Assess Tribunal Staff compliance with the Welsh Language standards by completing a self-assessment.
2. Update the assessment of Welsh language skills among Judicial Office Holders.
3. Send communication to all Mental Health Act Administrators and Legal Representatives to encourage them to discuss the use of Welsh at Tribunals with patients.
4. Circulate a Refresher Document outlining the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards to all Judicial Office Holders.
5. Identify further improvements that can be made and implemented within 2025-26 to build on progress made in promoting the use of the Welsh language within the tribunal.