Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales Welsh Language Standards Annual Report

April 2025 – March 2026

Tribiwnlys Adolygu Iechyd Meddwl Cymru | Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

Foreword

This is the Mental Health Review Tribunal for Wales's ("the Tribunal") tenth 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 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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.
- Specialist Members.

The tribunal membership consists of 30 Judges, 53 Medical Members and 38 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. In this reporting period, four judicial office holders attended cross jurisdictional training on supporting the use of the Welsh Language in hearings.

The secretariat is responsible for tribunal administration and deals with all telephone and written enquiries. The secretariat are civil servants employed by Welsh Government and form part of the Welsh Tribunals Unit, who are responsible for administrating six devolved tribunals across Wales. The secretariat team has one member who is fluent in Welsh and the team is also able to have assistance from other staff within the wider Welsh Tribunals Unit, when necessary. The Head of Welsh Tribunals is also a fluent Welsh speaker.

Publication date: 27/10/2026

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". Responses are monitored.
- 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.
- User group meetings were held in accordance with the Tribunal Compliance Notice Standard, 25A.
- Every page of our website is available in Welsh and English.
- There is provision for orders and decisions to be issued in both 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 2025-2026:

Total Applications Received	1,869
Applications Processed in Welsh or bilingually	13
Total Hearings Held	1163
Hearings Held in Welsh	2

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 2025 and 31 March 2026.

	English	Welsh	Total
Page views	671	9	680

Note: Figures provided do not include visits from users who do not accept cookies when on the site.

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.

Work undertaken in 2025-2026

	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**. A 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 since March 2024. The data received is reported to Judicial Leads on a quarterly basis. We will continue to collect and analyse data about this action.
2.	Identify improvements that can be made and implemented within 2025-26 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. We are currently working with our IT department to implement these changes.
3.	Prepare a Refresher Document to be circulated to all Tribunal Members outlining the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.	**Objective on-going**. A Refresher Document has been prepared and will be circulated to all Judicial Office Holders during 2026-27.
4.	Measure Tribunal Staff compliance with the Welsh Language standards by completing a self-assessment.	**Objective on-going**. Due to pressures across the WTU during this period, the self-assessment was not undertaken during 2025-26. This will be undertaken during Autumn of 2026.
5.	Update the assessment of Welsh language skills among Judicial Office Holders.	**Objective on-going:** The Welsh Tribunals Unit assesses and updates Judicial office holders' language skills information on an ongoing basis. Information for any newly appointed Judicial office holders is recorded upon appointment and the language skills information held for all Judicial office holders is reviewed every six months.

Forthcoming work 2026-2027

1. Review meeting invitation templates to ensure they are held in accordance with the Tribunal Welsh Language standards Compliance Notices, 25 & 25A.
2. Make greater use of the orange work in Welsh logo on Tribunal forms and publications to promote and encourage the use of Welsh.
3. Measure Tribunal Staff compliance with the Welsh Language standards by completing a self-assessment.