



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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## **WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT**

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**TITLE: Legislative Competence Order on the Welsh Language**

**DATE: 2 February 2009**

**BY: Alun Ffred Jones, Minister for Heritage**

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It's a pleasure to present the proposed Legislative Competence Order on the Welsh language to the National Assembly today and to provide Assembly Members with an opportunity to discuss and scrutinise our proposals on the language. I'm sure you'll agree that it is appropriate for the National Assembly to be given the power to legislate in the field of the language.

At present Matter 20 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (Welsh language) is empty. However, this Legislative Competence Order provides a way of starting to fill this void.

The proposed Order, if approved, would give the Assembly the power, through a Measure to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh Language. The Measure would put in place structures to strengthen the language and to fulfil the commitments in One Wales to:

- confirm official status of both Welsh and English;
- linguistic rights in the provision of services; and
- establish the post of Language Commissioner.

I look forward to working with Members and others with an interest in the health of the language, in scrutinising the proposed Legislative Competence Order and in developing proposals for a Measure on the language, in due course.

I will make a Legislative Statement during Plenary on 3 February 2009.